January 2022
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SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY 2020 DATA SLIDES

County of San Diego
Health and Human Services Agency
Division of Public Health Services
HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch

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Preface

This publication, *Sexually Transmitted Diseases in San Diego County, 2020 Data Slides,* includes reported disease data collected through 2020 for chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis. All tables and figures published here supersede those in prior publications.

This slide set provides a comprehensive picture of reported sexually transmitted disease (STD) trends and current morbidity in San Diego. These data are compiled to guide policy and program development within the County of San Diego HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch, local STD programs, and other public health agencies.

Copyright Information

Suggested Citation

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Case Counts and Rates

- These slides include **case counts** and **rates** of reportable STDs.
- Rates take population size into account and indicate the impact of STDs on a group or population.
- In this report, most rates are expressed as the number of cases per 100,000 persons in a group or population. Congenital syphilis rates are expressed as the number of cases per 100,000 live births.
- Population estimate source: SANDAG Vintage 2020 Population Estimates; County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Services Division, Community Health Statistics Unit. 8/2021.
- The following is an example of the difference between cases and rates:

Region	Case Count	Population	Rate per 100,000 $\frac{Case\ Count * 100,000}{Population}$
A	10,000	200,000	5,000
B	10,000	100,000	10,000

- Despite having the same number of affected individuals (10,000), the rate for Region B is higher than Region A because there are fewer inhabitants. Accounting for the population size allows for a more consistent comparison of the level of disease per person between regions.

Gender Information

- In these slides, the gender variable may not coincide with the gender identities of the individuals.
  - Gender represents person's reported current gender.
  - Transgender individuals were included in the gender categories representing their sex assigned at birth, in order to maintain confidentiality.
  - Cases with missing gender information or gender reported as "unknown", "identity not listed", "declined to answer", or "other" were excluded from the calculations involving the gender variable.

STD/HIV Screening Recommendations

United States Preventive Services Task Force

- Chlamydia and gonorrhea screening in sexually active females* aged 24 years and younger (Grade B)
- Chlamydia and gonorrhea screening in sexually active females* aged 25 years and older with risk factors (Grade B)
- Screening for syphilis in asymptomatic, nonpregnant persons who are at increased risk for infection (Grade A)
- Early screening for syphilis in all pregnant persons (Grade A)
- Screening for HIV infection in adolescents and adults aged 15 to 65 years, and younger adolescents and older adults at increased risk of infection (Grade A)
- Screening for HIV infection in all pregnant persons (Grade A)
- Offering of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to persons who are at high risk of HIV acquisition (Grade A)

* Note: Recommendation and net benefit are based on biological sex, rather than gender identity.

Source: https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org

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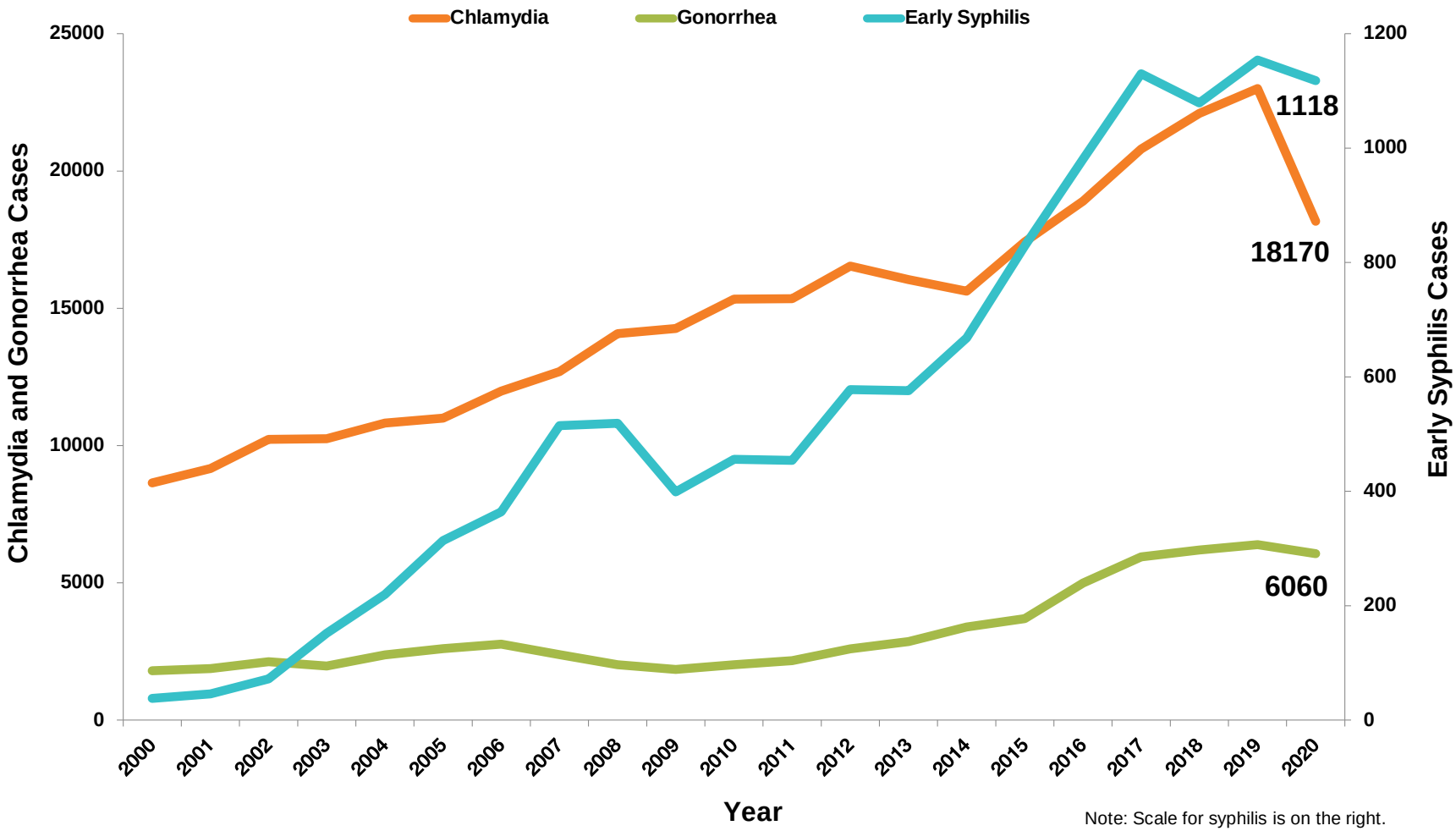
Key Points

STDs in San Diego County

- From 2019 to 2020, reported cases and rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and early syphilis decreased in San Diego County as follows:
  - **Chlamydia:**
    - 18,170 cases (21% decrease from 2019)
    - Rate of 543.5 cases per 100,000 (20.8% decrease from 2019)
  - **Gonorrhea:**
    - 6,060 cases (5.2% decrease from 2019)
    - Rate of 181.3 cases per 100,000 (5.0% decrease from 2019)
  - **Early Syphilis:**
    - 1,118 cases (3.1% decrease from 2019)
    - Rate of 33.4 cases per 100,000 (2.9% decrease from 2019)

Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Early Syphilis Cases, San Diego County, 2000 - 2020



Note: Scale for syphilis is on the right.

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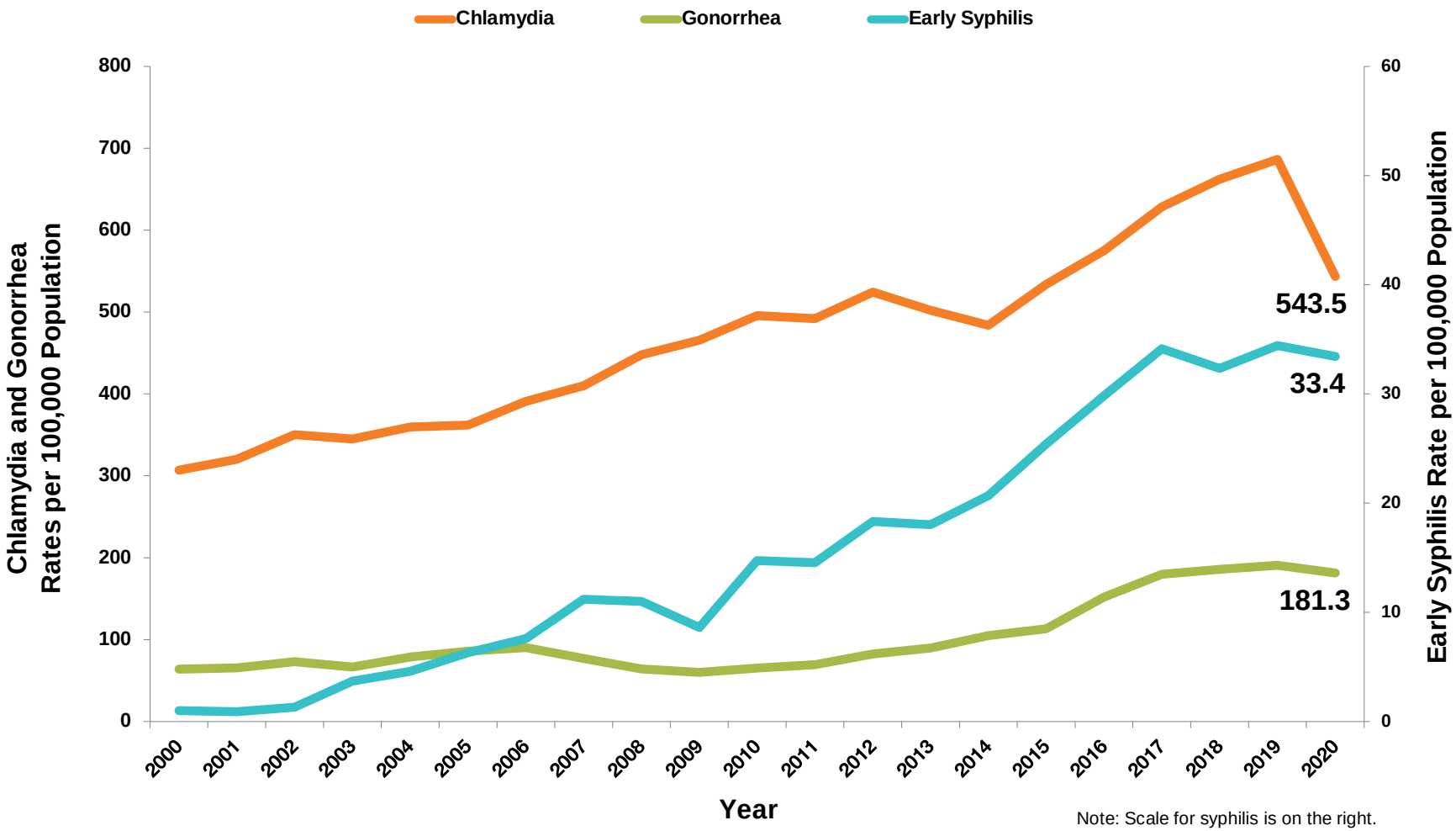
Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Early Syphilis Rates, San Diego County, 2000 - 2020



Note: Scale for syphilis is on the right.

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Chlamydia

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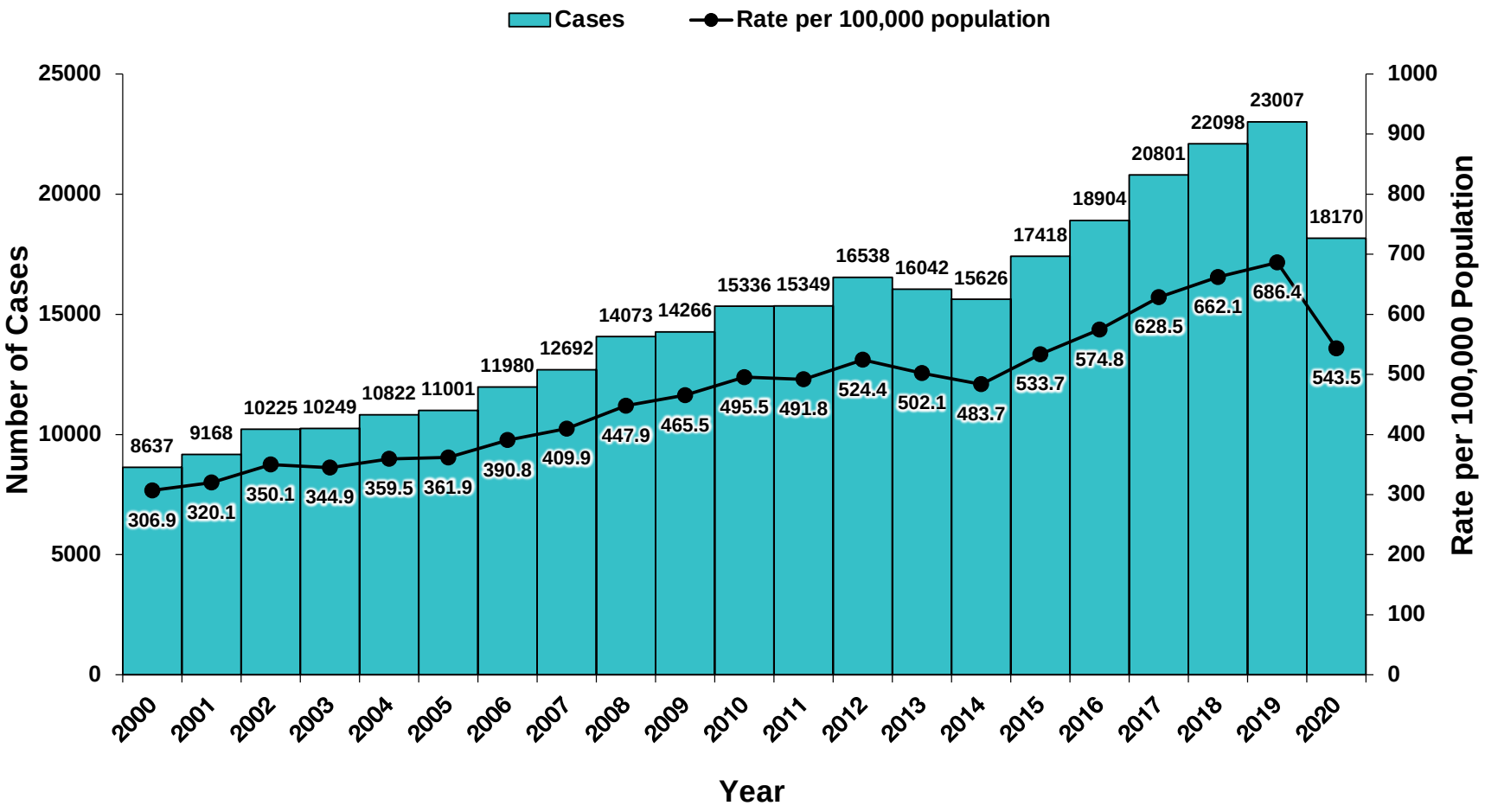
Key Points

Chlamydia in San Diego County

- Chlamydia was the second most commonly-reported communicable disease in San Diego County and in California in 2020 after Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- Cases of chlamydia decreased by 21.0% from 23,007 cases in 2019 to 18,170 cases in 2020.
- The overall rate of chlamydia decreased by 20.8% from 686.4 cases per 100,000 in 2019 to 543.5 cases per 100,000 in 2020.
- The rate of chlamydia in women is 1.5 times the rate in men.
- Young women, aged 20 to 24 years, have the highest rate of infection.
- Based on limited race/ethnicity data, rates of chlamydia were higher among African-American/black and Other/mixed race women and men than those of other populations.

Chlamydia Cases and Rates by Year
San Diego County, 2000 - 2020



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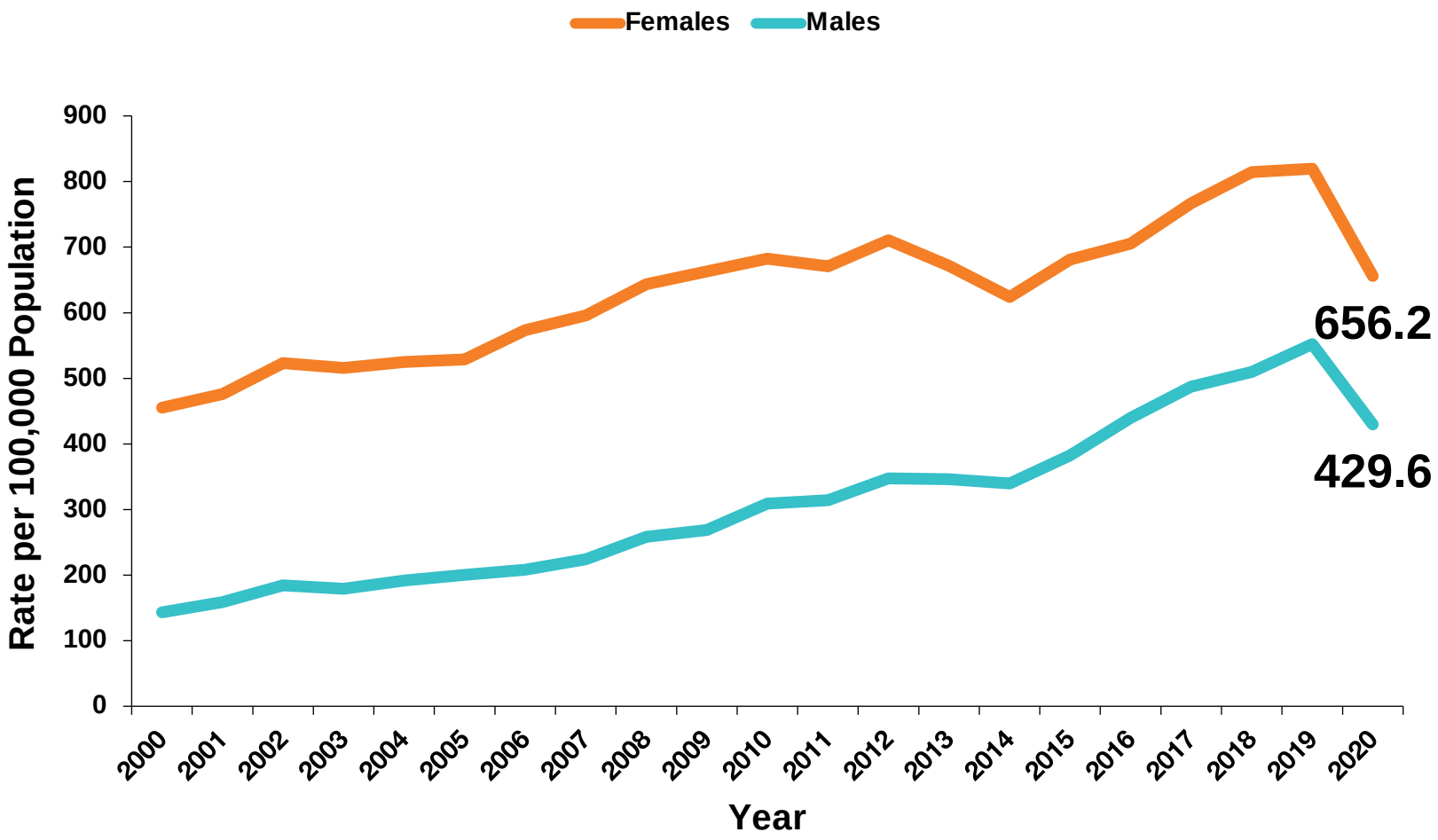
Chlamydia Rates by Gender and Year
San Diego County, 2000 - 2020



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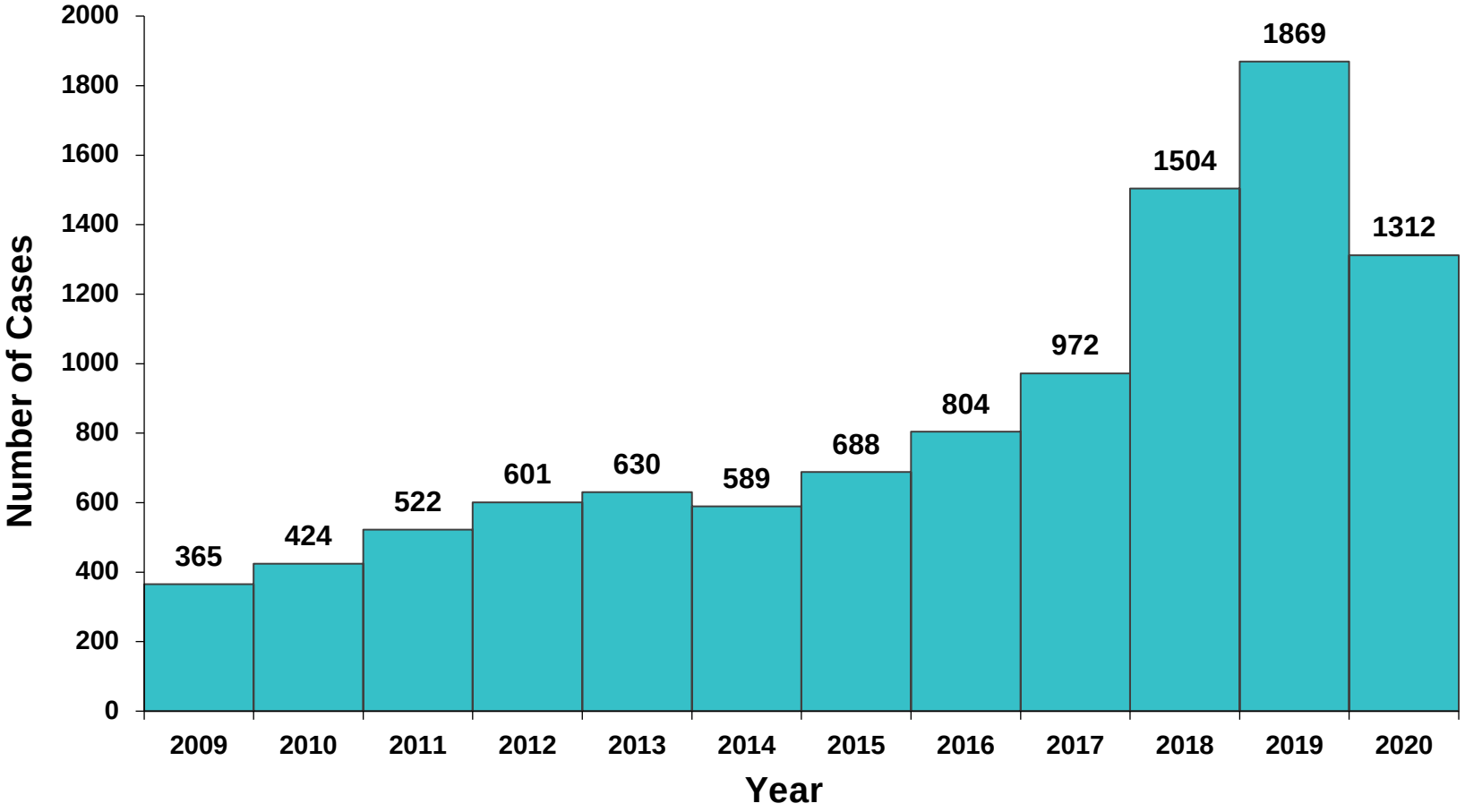
Rectal or Pharyngeal Chlamydia Infections in Males
San Diego County, 2009 - 2020



Note: The number of rectal or pharyngeal cases in 2018 is different from the number of rectal or pharyngeal cases published in 2018 STD Data Slides due to recalculation with revised methodology.

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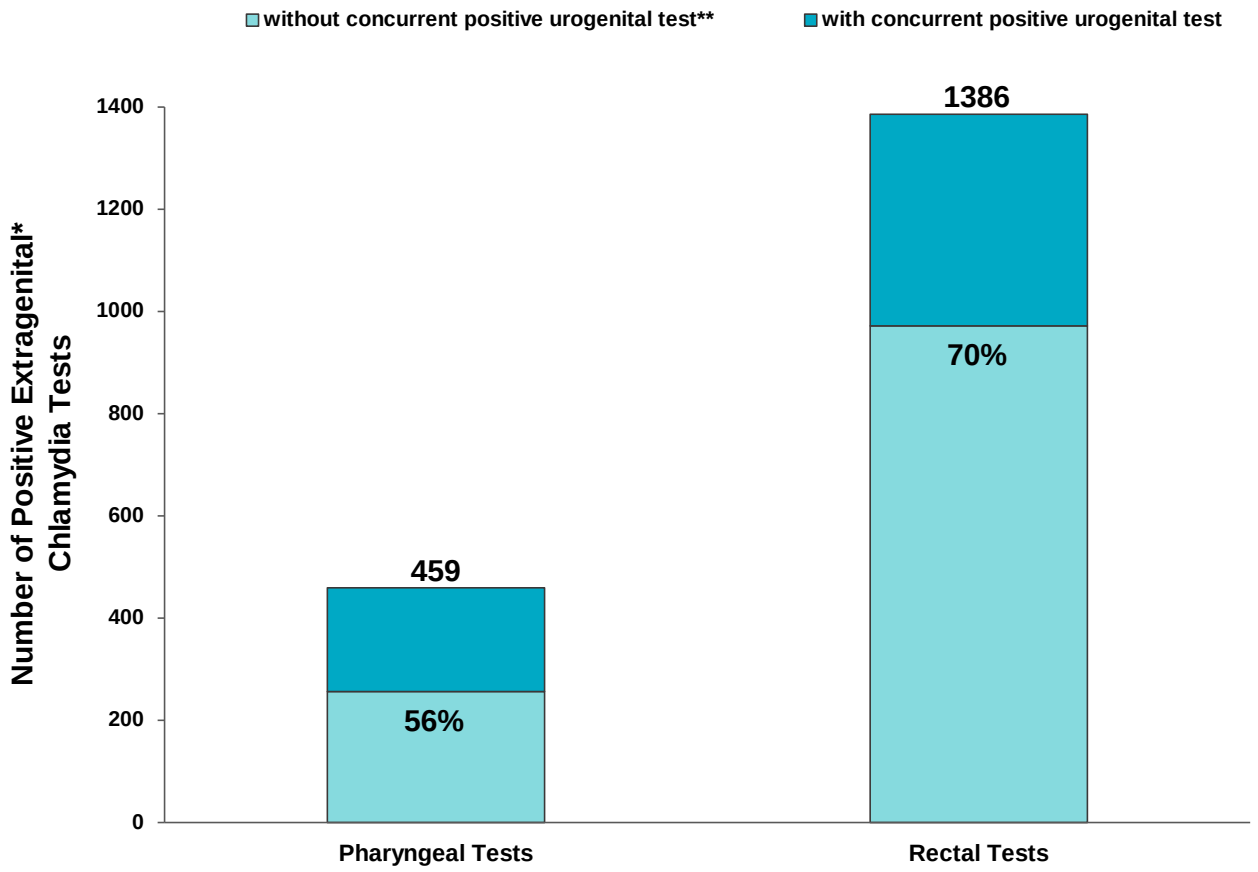
Proportion of Extragenital* Chlamydia Infections With & Without Concurrent Positive Urogenital Test, San Diego County, 2020



*Extragenital refers to pharyngeal and rectal anatomic sites.

**Note: Due to negative chlamydia laboratory results not being reportable to the local public health departments, "without concurrent positive urogenital test" category means that no positive urogenital test result was reported to the County of San Diego HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch for the specified episode of extragenital infection and does not mean that the case had a negative urogenital test.

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Proportion of Extragenital* Chlamydia Infections With & Without Concurrent Positive Urogenital Test by Gender, San Diego County, 2020

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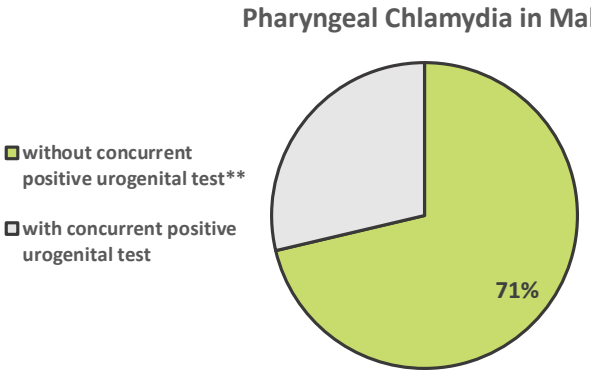

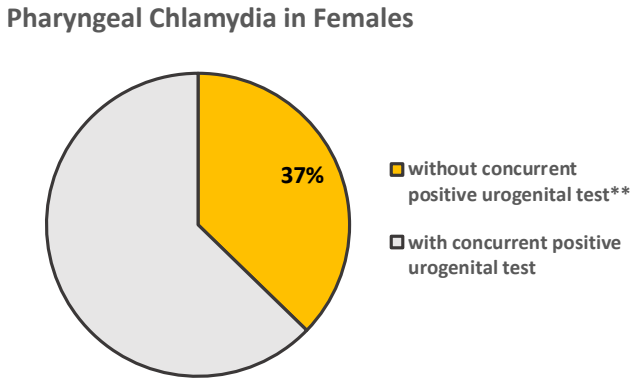

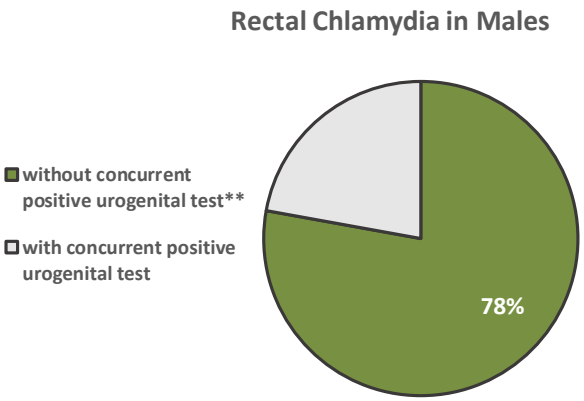

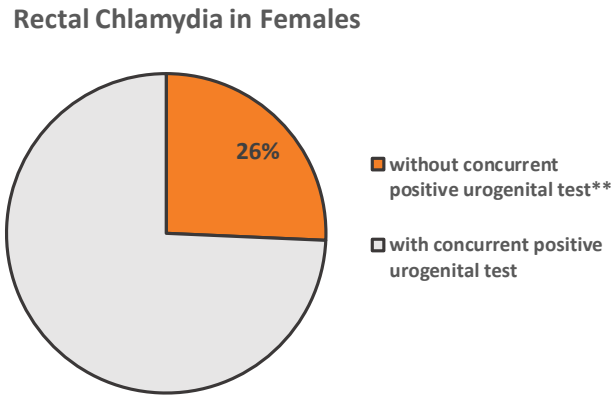

*Extragenital refers to pharyngeal and rectal anatomic sites.

**Note: Due to negative chlamydia laboratory results not being reportable to the local public health departments, "without concurrent positive urogenital test" category means that no positive urogenital test result was reported to the County of San Diego HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch for the specified episode of extragenital infection and does not mean that the case had a negative urogenital test.

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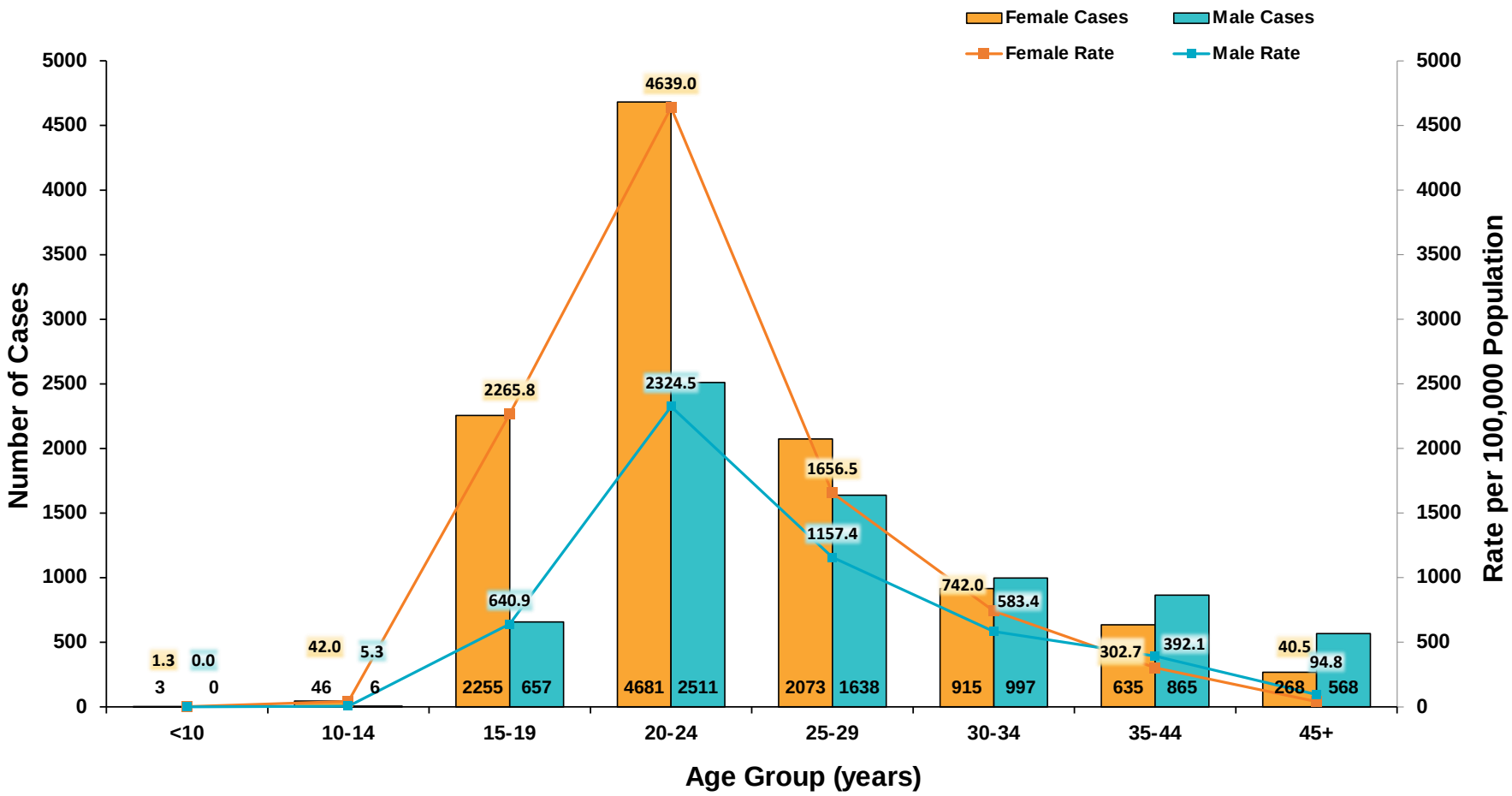
Chlamydia Cases and Rates by Gender and Age San Diego County, 2020



Note: 52 cases were missing gender and/or age information and are not included in the counts above.

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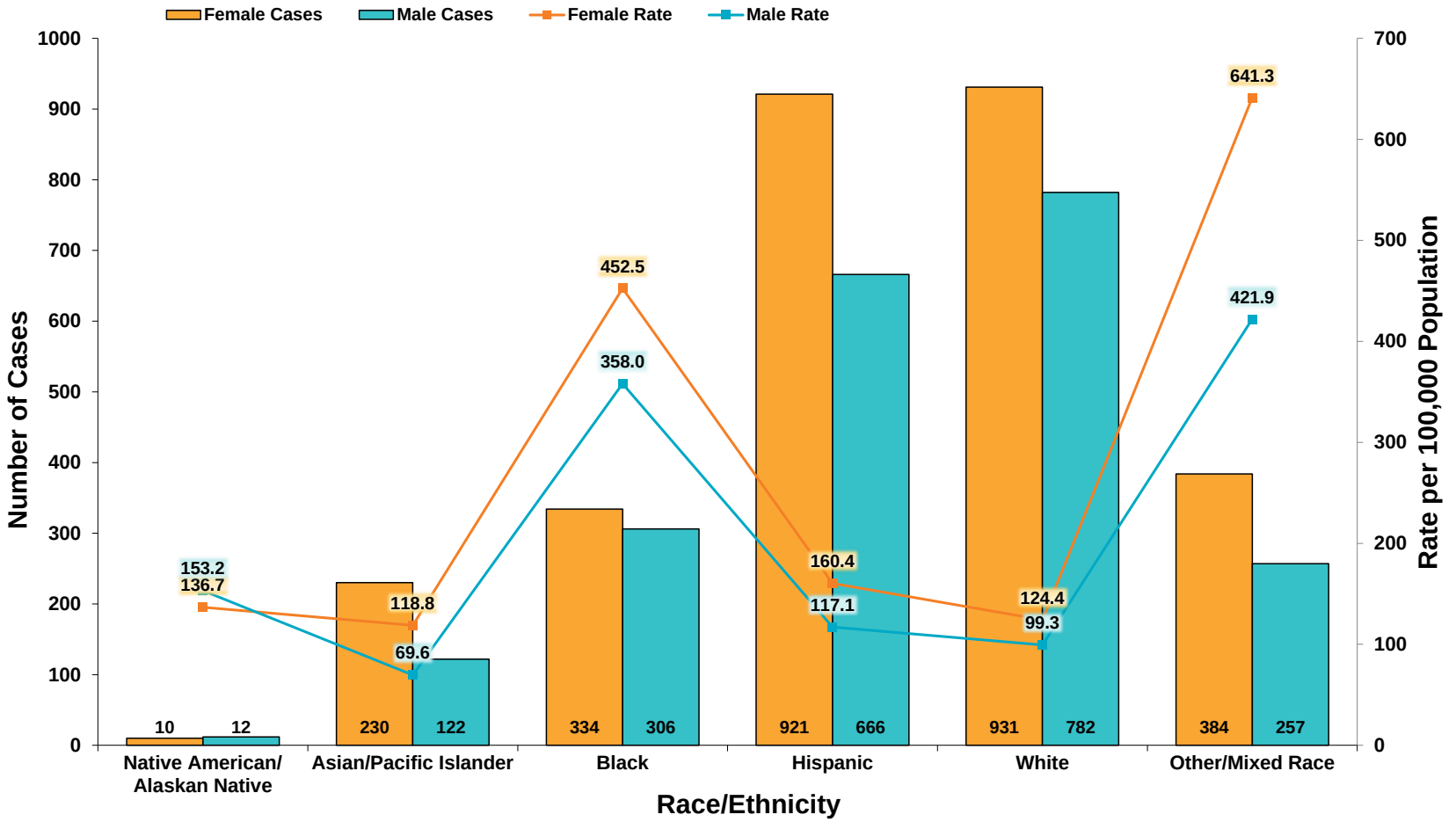
Chlamydia Cases and Rates by Gender and Race/Ethnicity San Diego County, 2020



Note: 72.7% of cases are missing race/ethnicity or gender information and are not included in the counts above.
As of October 1, 2019, Chlamydia trachomatis (CT) infections have no longer been required to be reported to the local health department by healthcare providers; positive CT tests have continued to be reported by laboratories.

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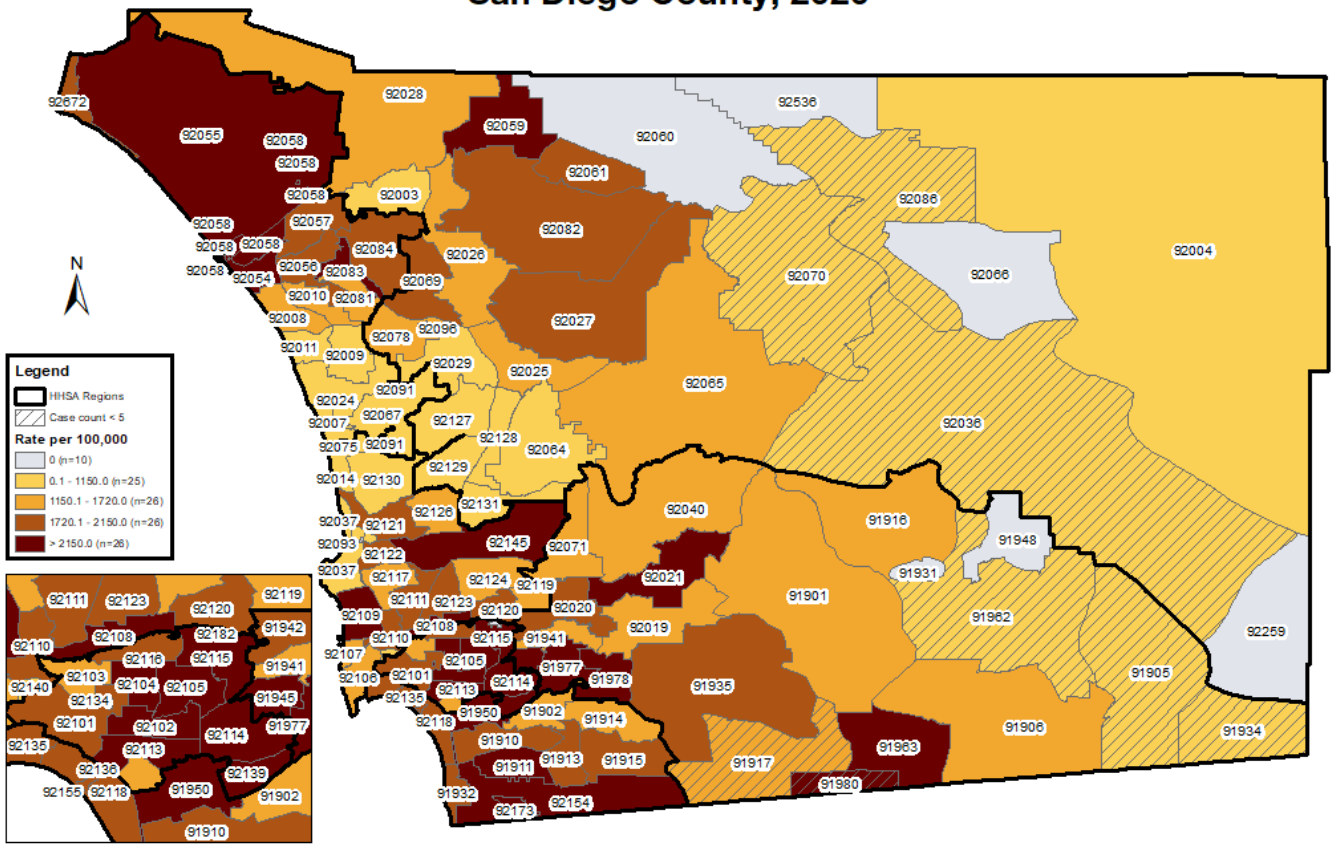
Chlamydia Rates by Zip Code Among Persons Aged 15 to 29 Years, San Diego County, 2020



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, HSHB (HIV, STD, Hepatitis Branch), CalREDIE Database
Map Date: January 12, 2022

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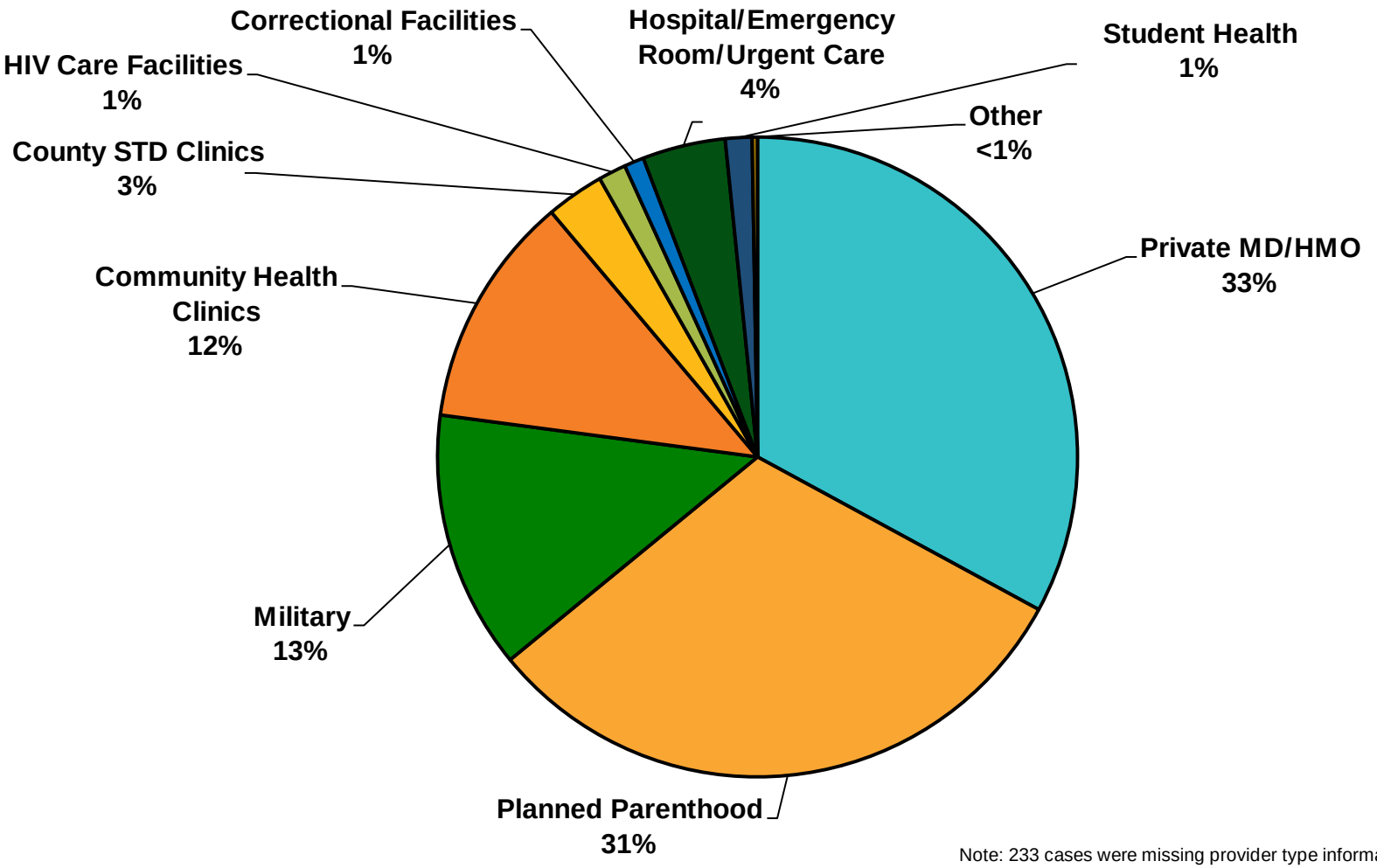
Chlamydia Cases by Reporting Facility Type San Diego County, 2020



Note: 233 cases were missing provider type information.

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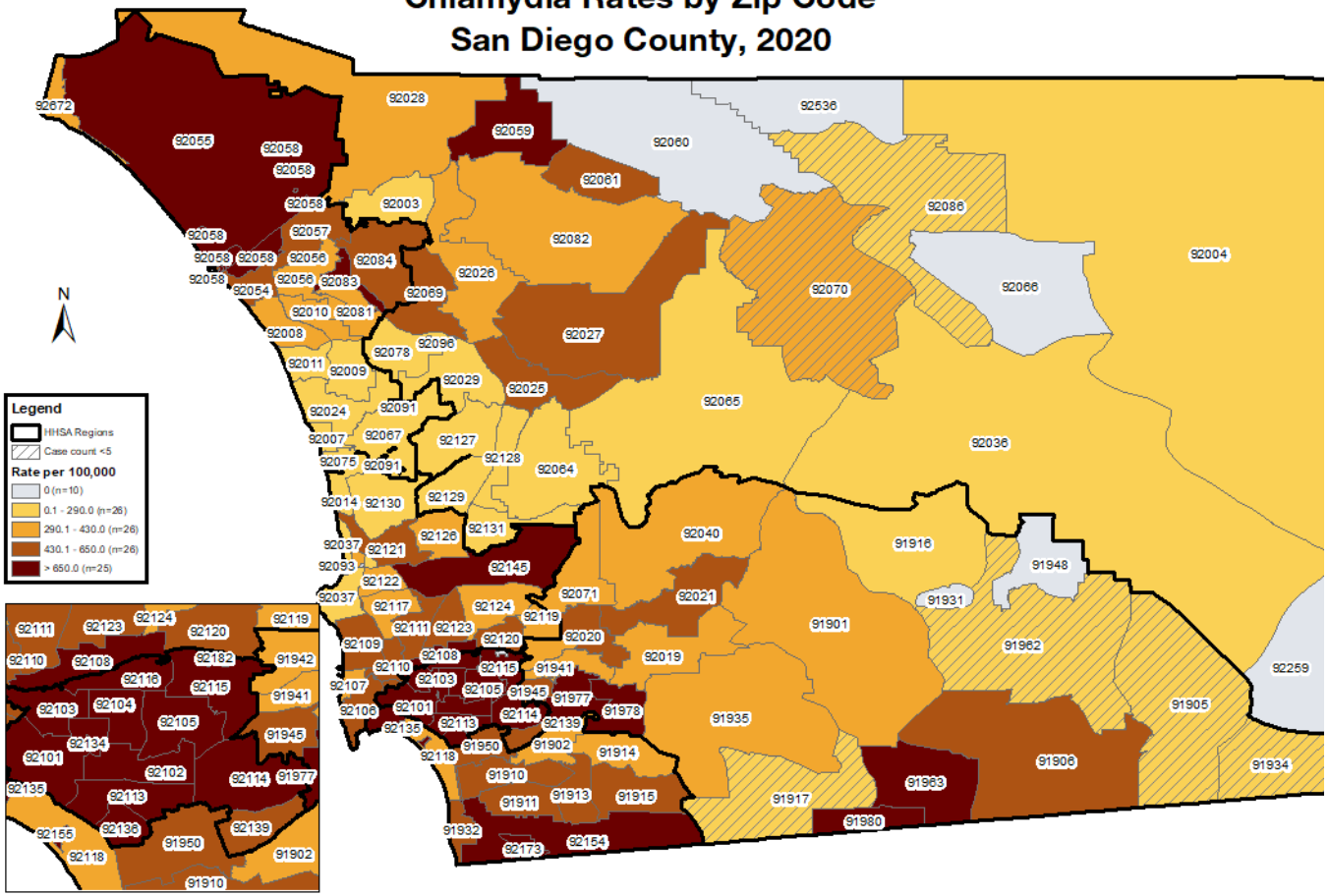
Chlamydia Rates by Zip Code
San Diego County, 2020



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, HSHB (HIV, STD, Hepatitis Branch), CalREDIE Database
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Gonorrhea

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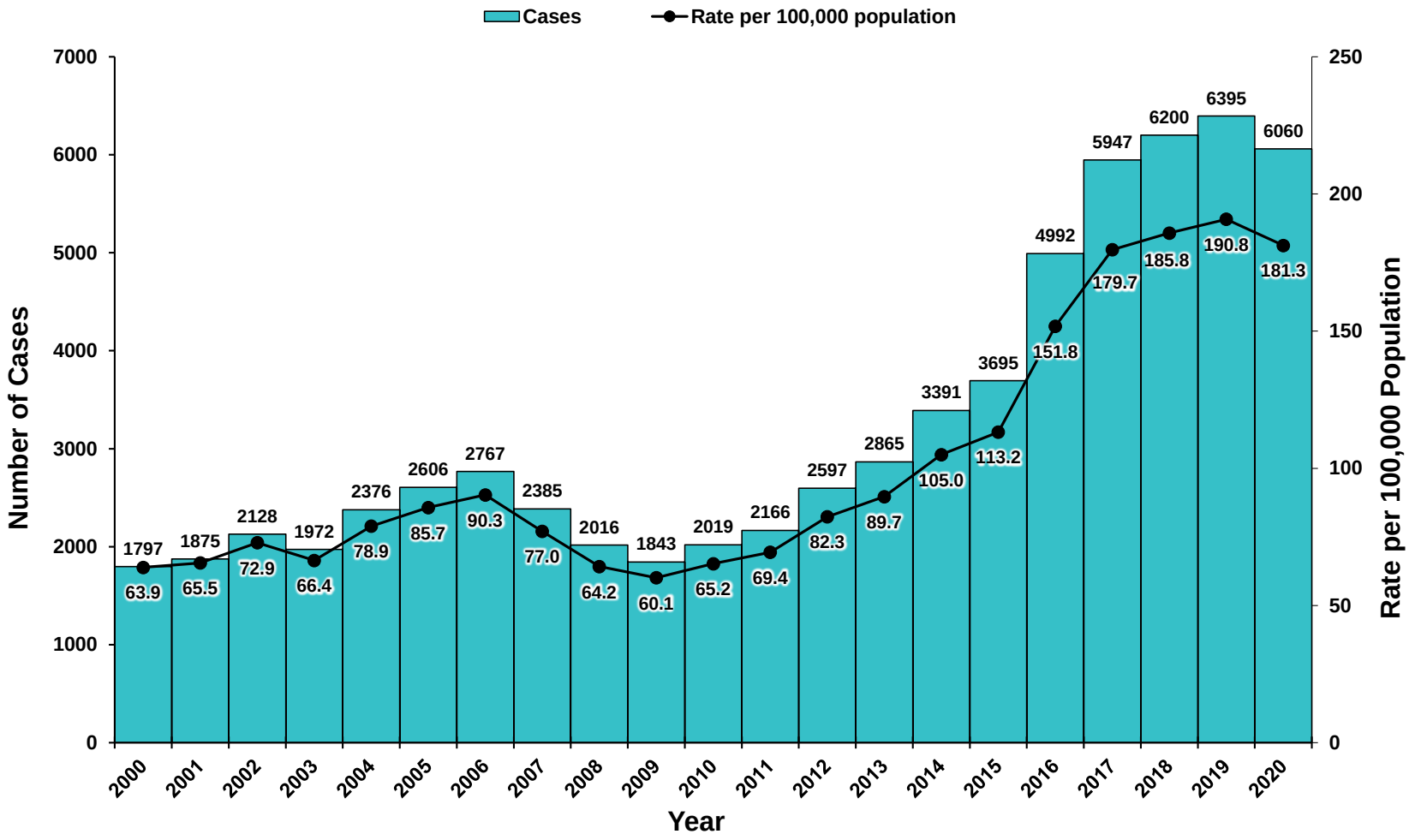
Key Points

Gonorrhea in San Diego County

- Cases of gonorrhea decreased by 5.2% from 6,395 cases in 2019 to 6,060 cases in 2020.
- The overall rate of gonorrhea decreased by 5.0% from 190.8 cases per 100,000 in 2019 to 181.3 cases per 100,000 in 2020.
- The rate of gonorrhea in males is 1.8 times the rate in females, although it decreased by 8.1% between 2019 and 2020.
- Men aged 20 to 29 years have the highest rates of infection.
- The rate of gonorrhea in African-American/black males is 5.2 times that of white males and 3.7 times that of Hispanic males; the rate of infection in African-American/black females is 5.4 times that of white females and 3.4 times that of Hispanic females.

Gonorrhea Cases and Rates by Year
San Diego County, 2000 - 2020



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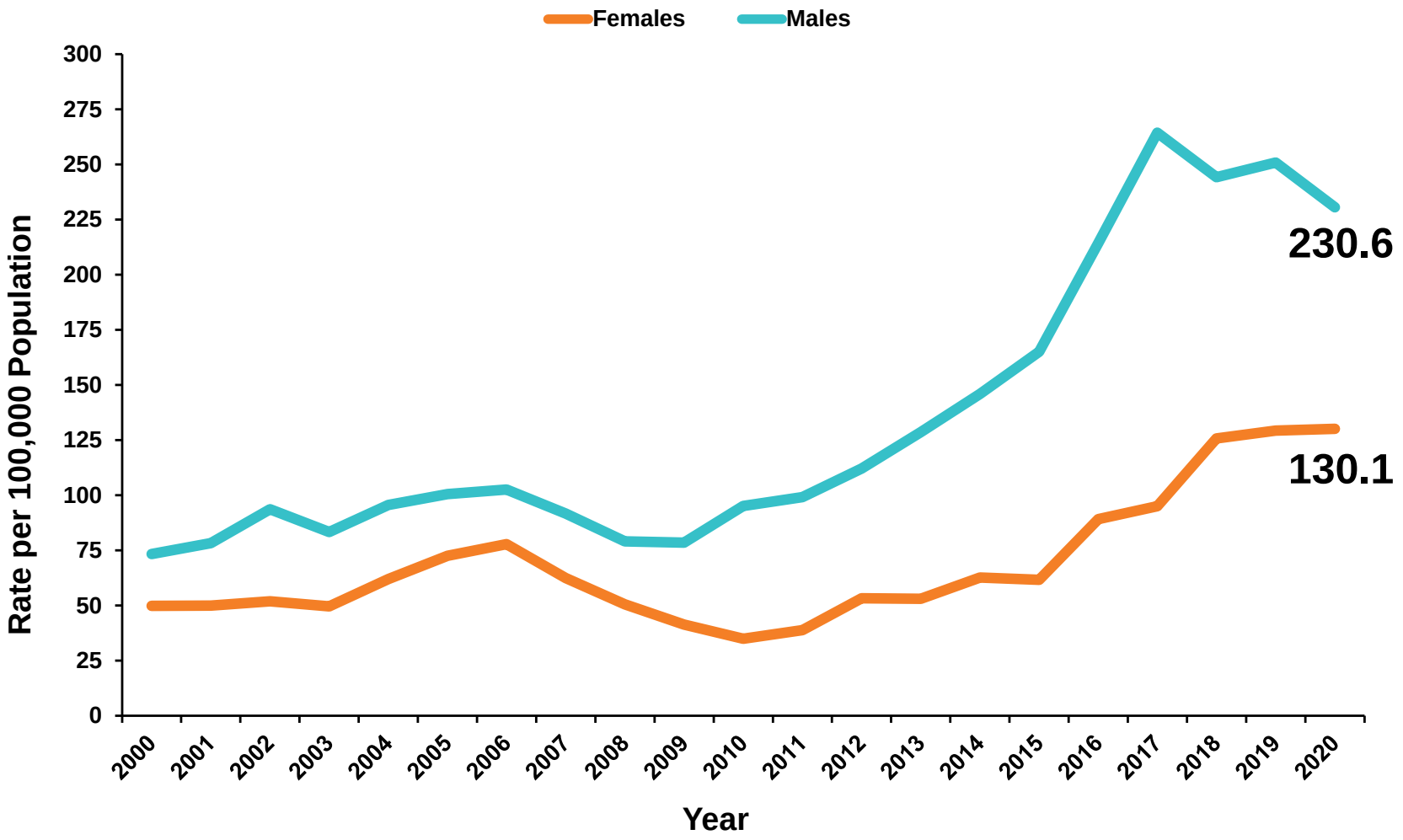
Gonorrhea Rates by Gender and Year
San Diego County, 2000 - 2020



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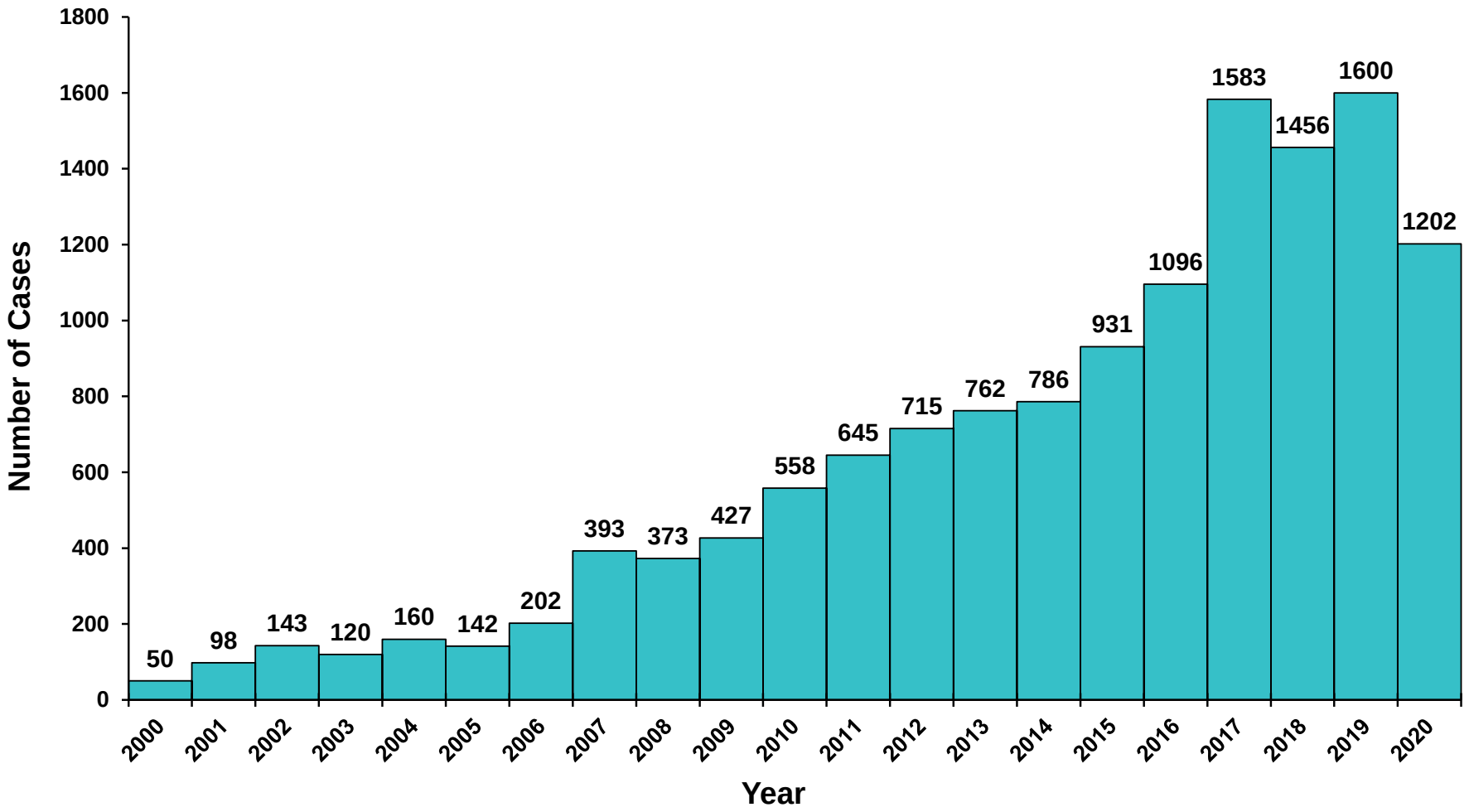
Rectal or Pharyngeal Gonorrhea in Males
San Diego County, 2000 - 2020



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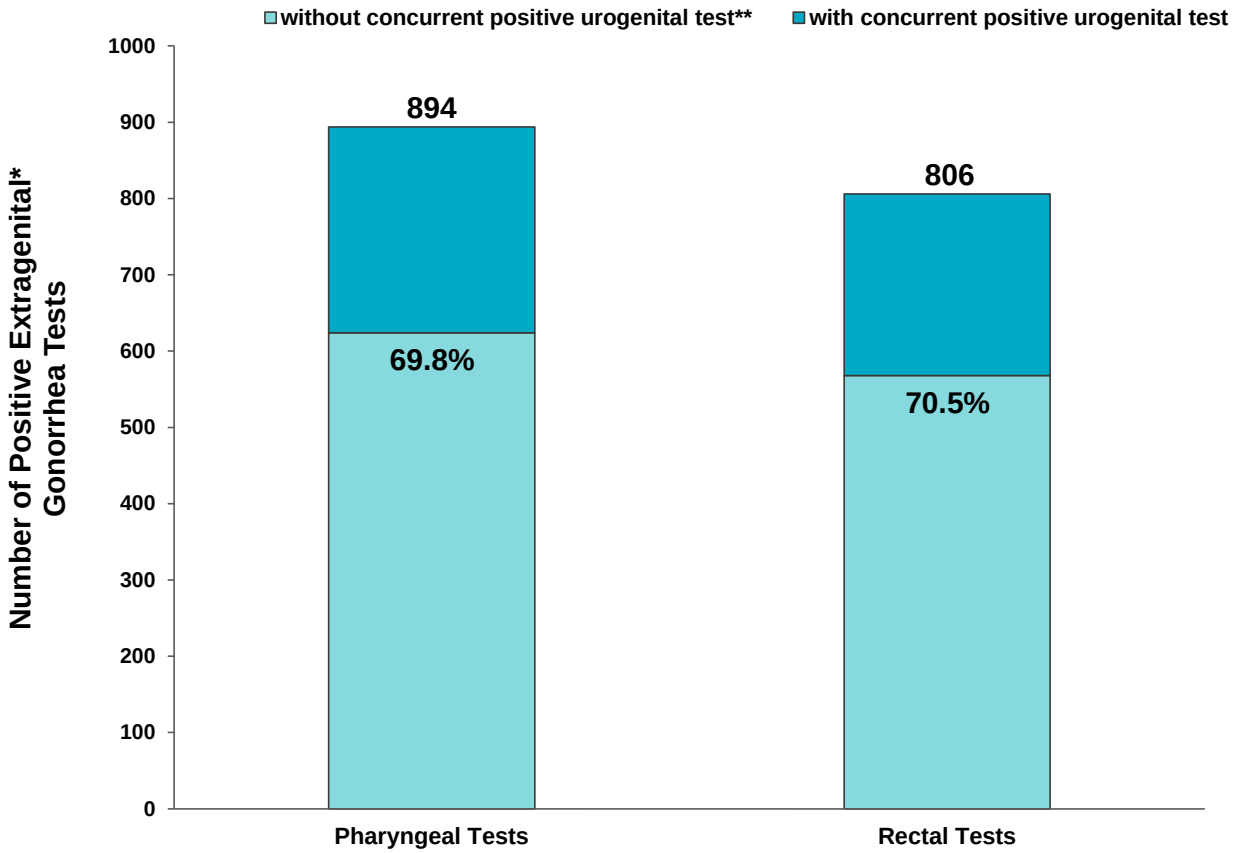
Proportion of Extragenital* Gonorrhea With & Without Concurrent Positive Urogenital Test, San Diego County, 2020



*Extragenital refers to pharyngeal and rectal anatomic sites.

**Note: Due to negative gonorrhea laboratory results not being reportable to the local public health departments, "without concurrent positive urogenital test" category means that no positive urogenital test result was reported to the County of San Diego HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch for the specified episode of extragenital infection and does not mean that the case had a negative urogenital test.

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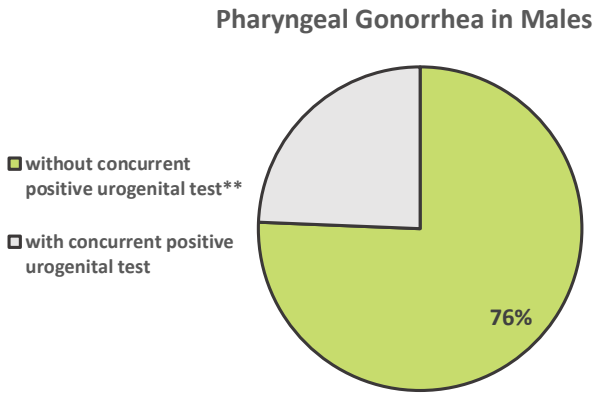
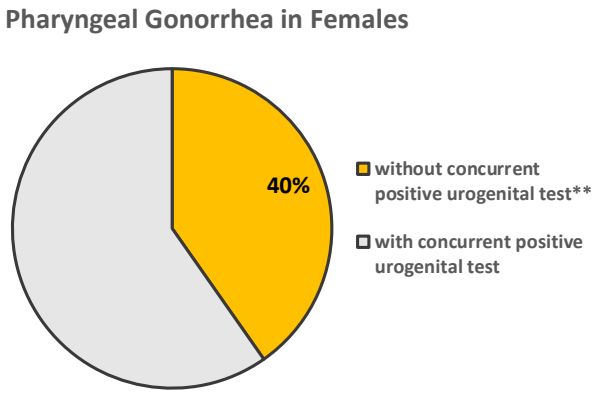
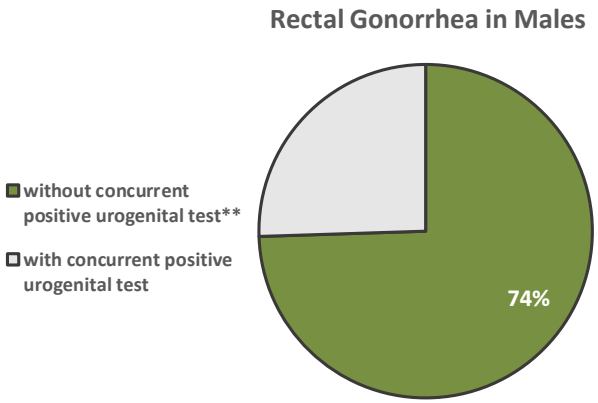
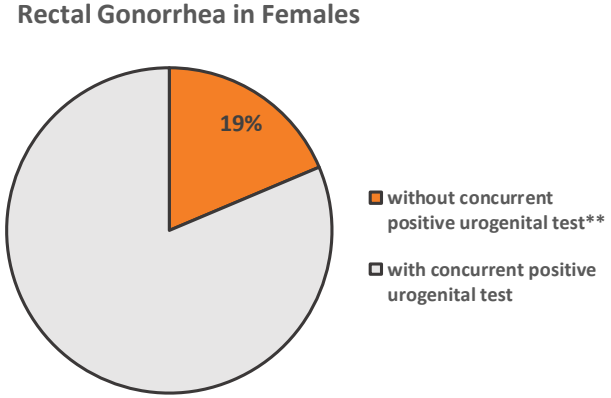
Proportion of Extragenital* Gonorrhea With & Without Concurrent Positive Urogenital Test by Gender, San Diego County, 2020





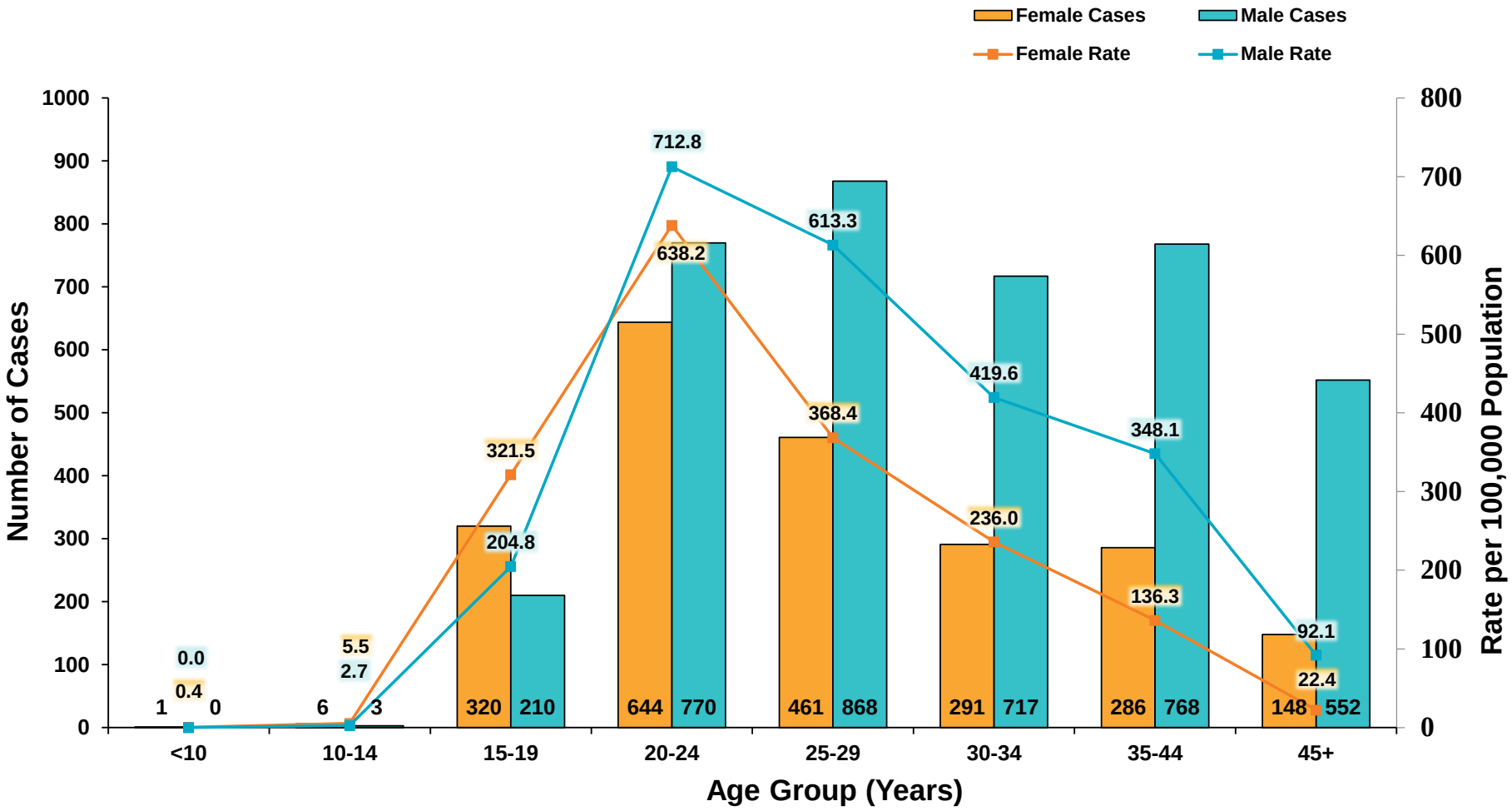




*Extragenital refers to pharyngeal and rectal anatomic sites.

**Note: Due to negative gonorrhea laboratory results not being reportable to the local public health departments, "without concurrent positive urogenital test" category means that no positive urogenital test result was reported to the County of San Diego HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Branch for the specified episode of extragenital infection and does not mean that the case had a negative urogenital test.

Gonorrhea Cases and Rates by Gender and Age San Diego County, 2020



Note: 15 cases were missing gender information.

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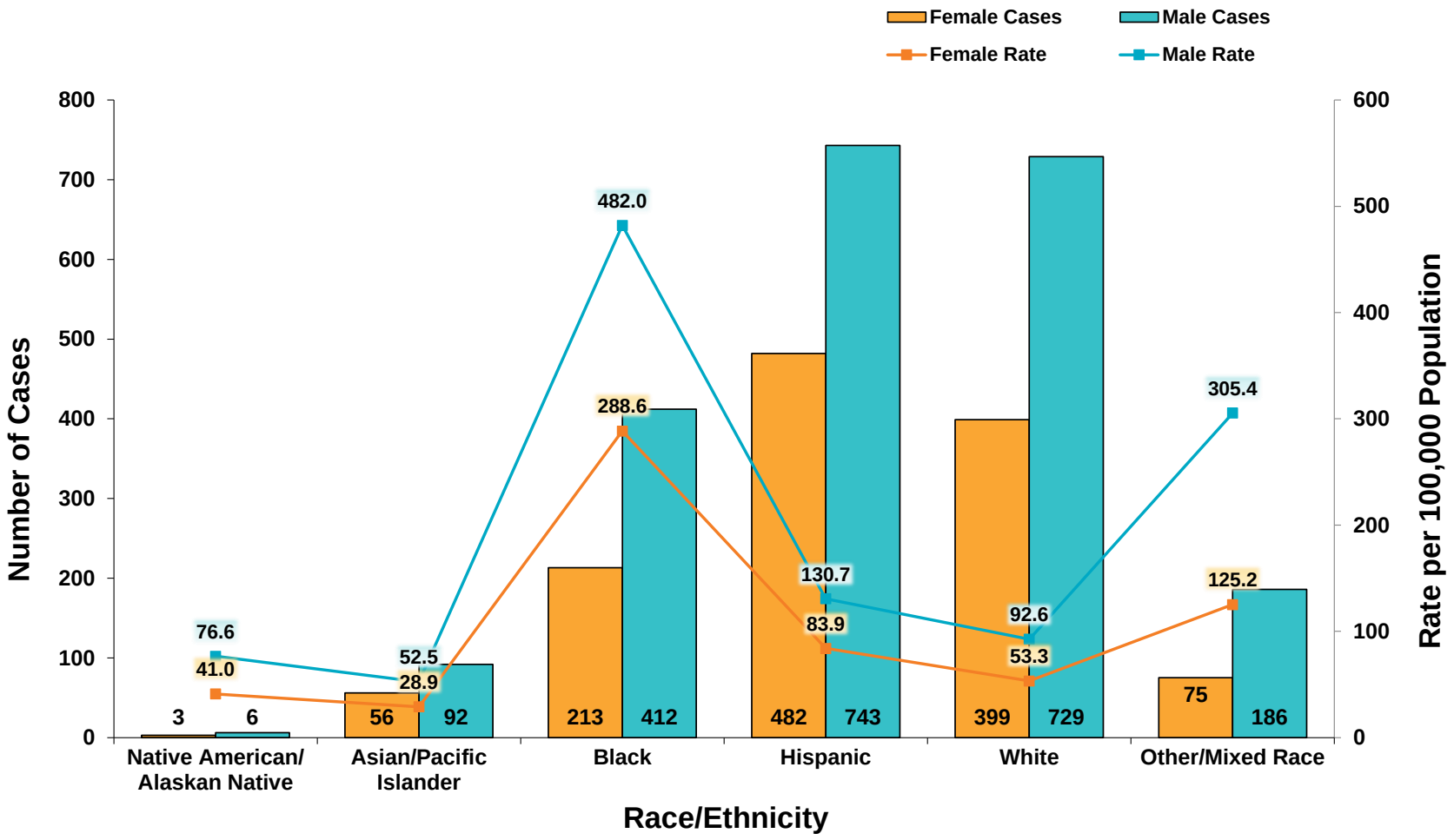
Gonorrhea Cases and Rates by Gender and Race/Ethnicity San Diego County, 2020



Note: 44% of cases are missing race/ethnicity or gender information and are not included in counts above.

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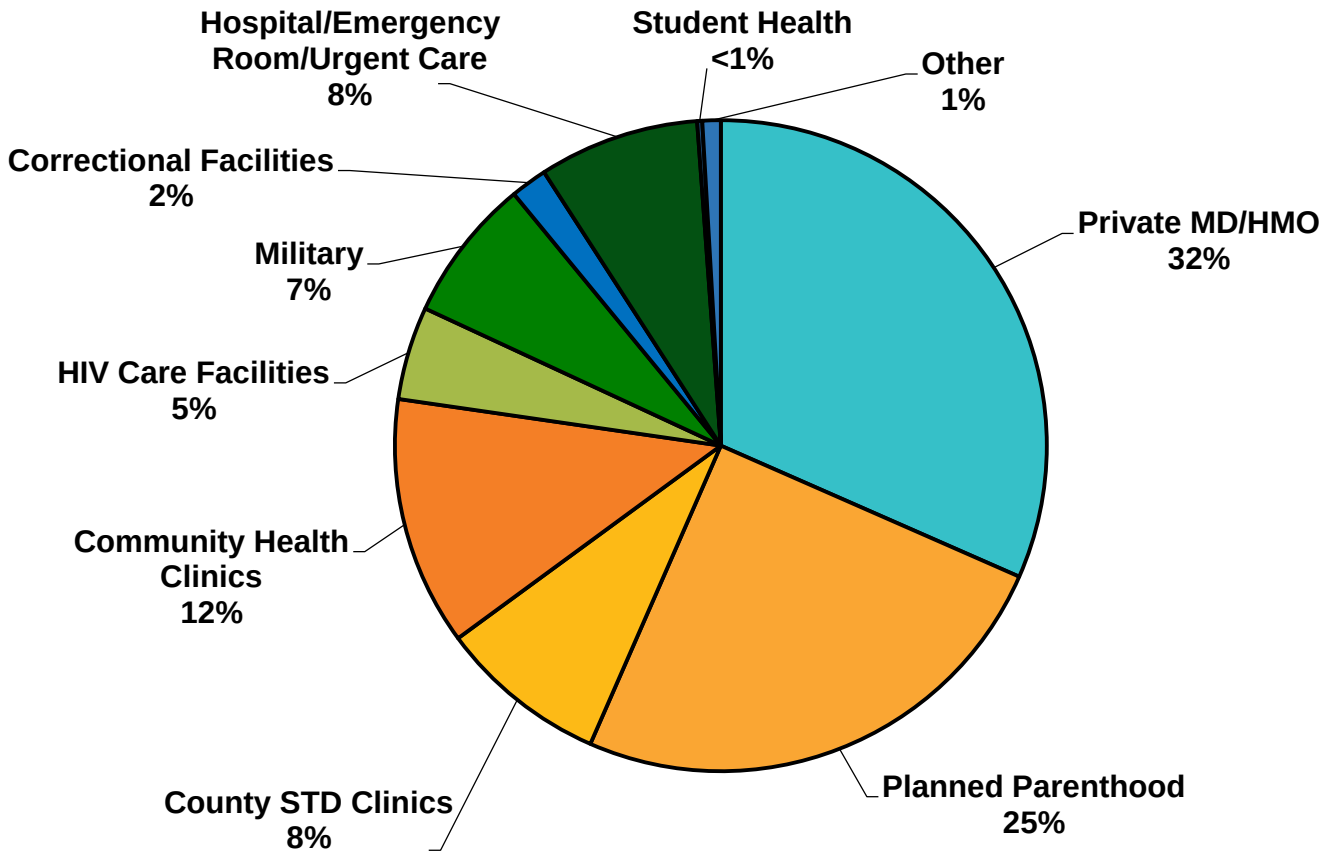
Gonorrhea Cases by Reporting Facility Type San Diego County, 2020



Note: 119 cases were missing provider type information.

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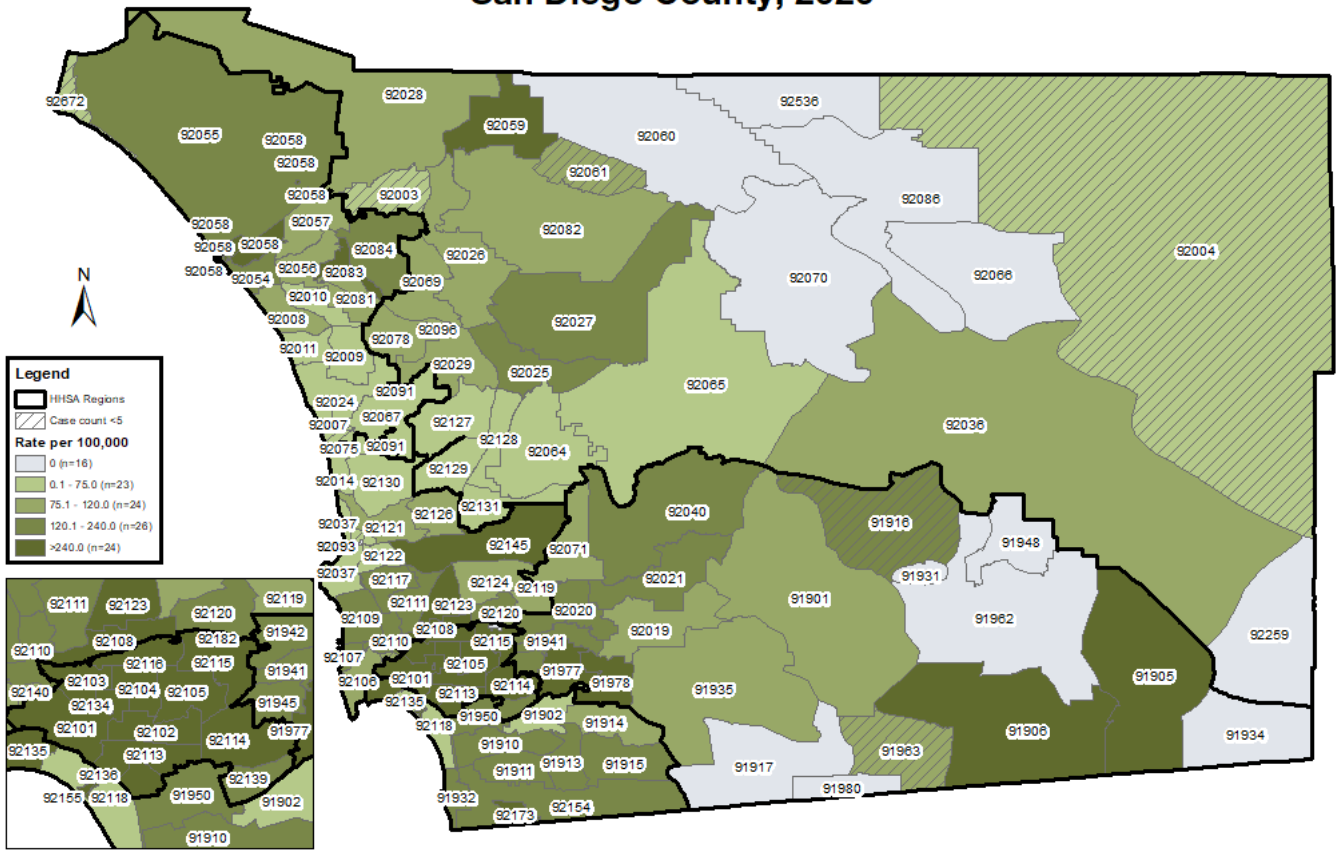
Gonorrhea Rates by Zip Code
San Diego County, 2020



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, HSHB (HIV, STD, Hepatitis Branch), CalREDIE Database
Map Date: January 12, 2022

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Syphilis

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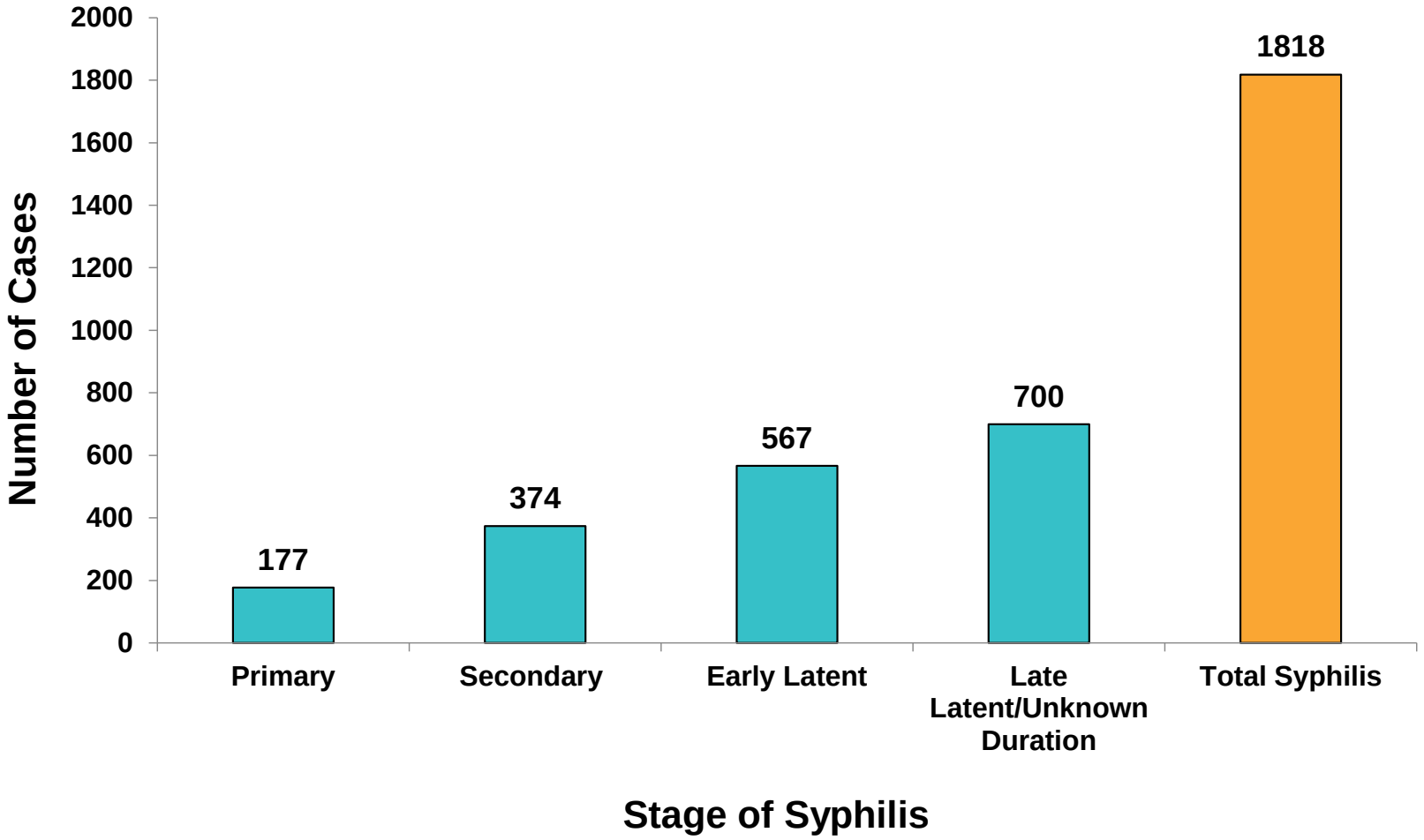
Syphilis Stages and Significance

- Primary: painless ulcer(s) at site of initial contact with bacteria (*Treponema pallidum*); atypical (i.e., painful) lesions may occur
- Secondary: widespread infection with variable presentation; typical findings include, but are not limited to, rash (may involve palms and soles), condylomata lata (wart-like lesions), mucous patches, and/or patchy alopecia.
- Early latent: no signs or symptoms of active infection; infection can be proven to have occurred <1 year ago.
- Late latent: no signs or symptoms of active infection; infection occurred ≥1 year ago, or duration is unknown.
- Sexual transmission between adults is only possible during early syphilis (i.e., primary, secondary, & early latent stages).
- Transmission from mother to child can occur during any stage of infection.

Case Count by Stage of Syphilis
San Diego County, 2020



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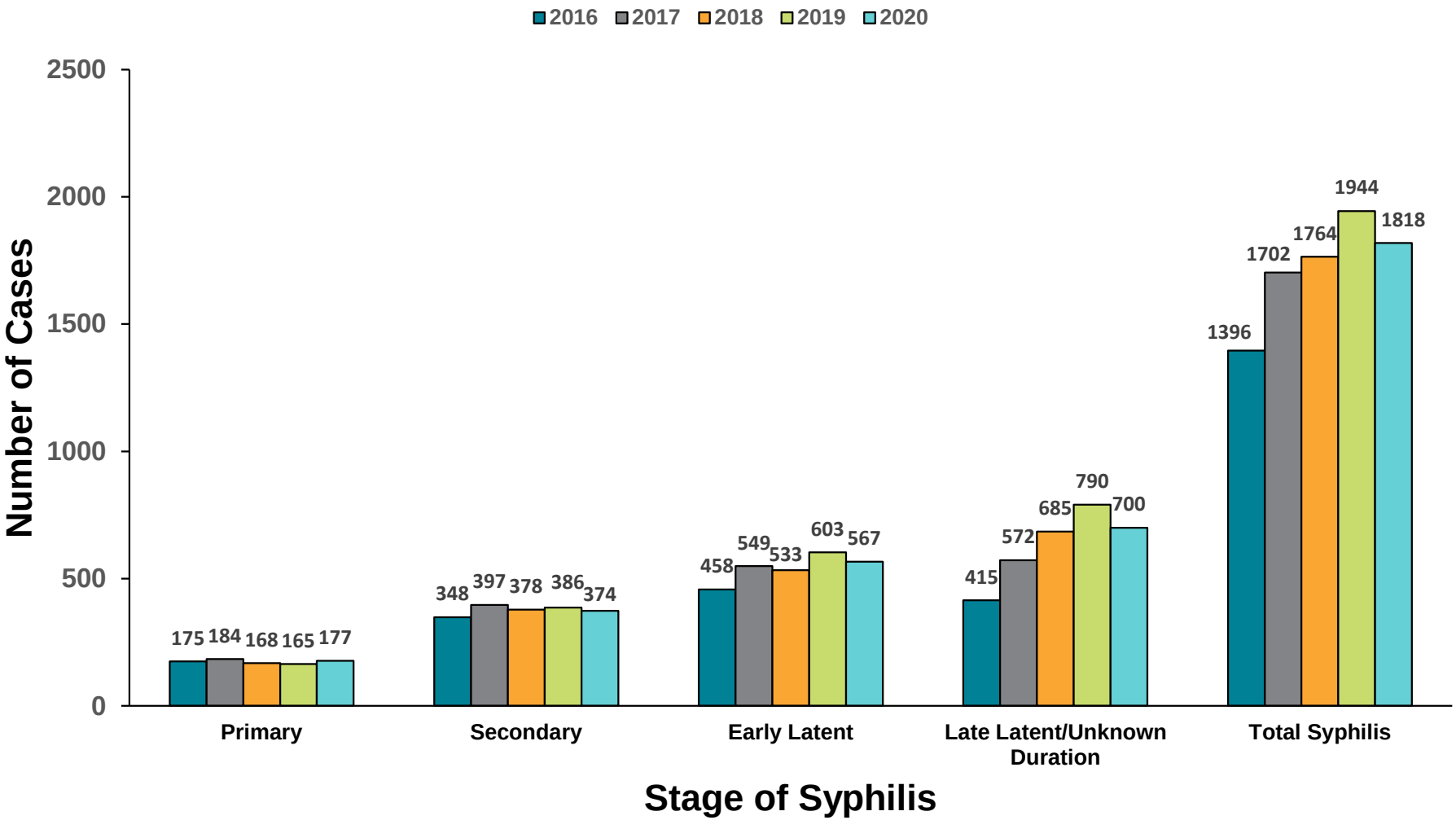
Case Count by Stage of Syphilis
San Diego County, 2016 - 2020



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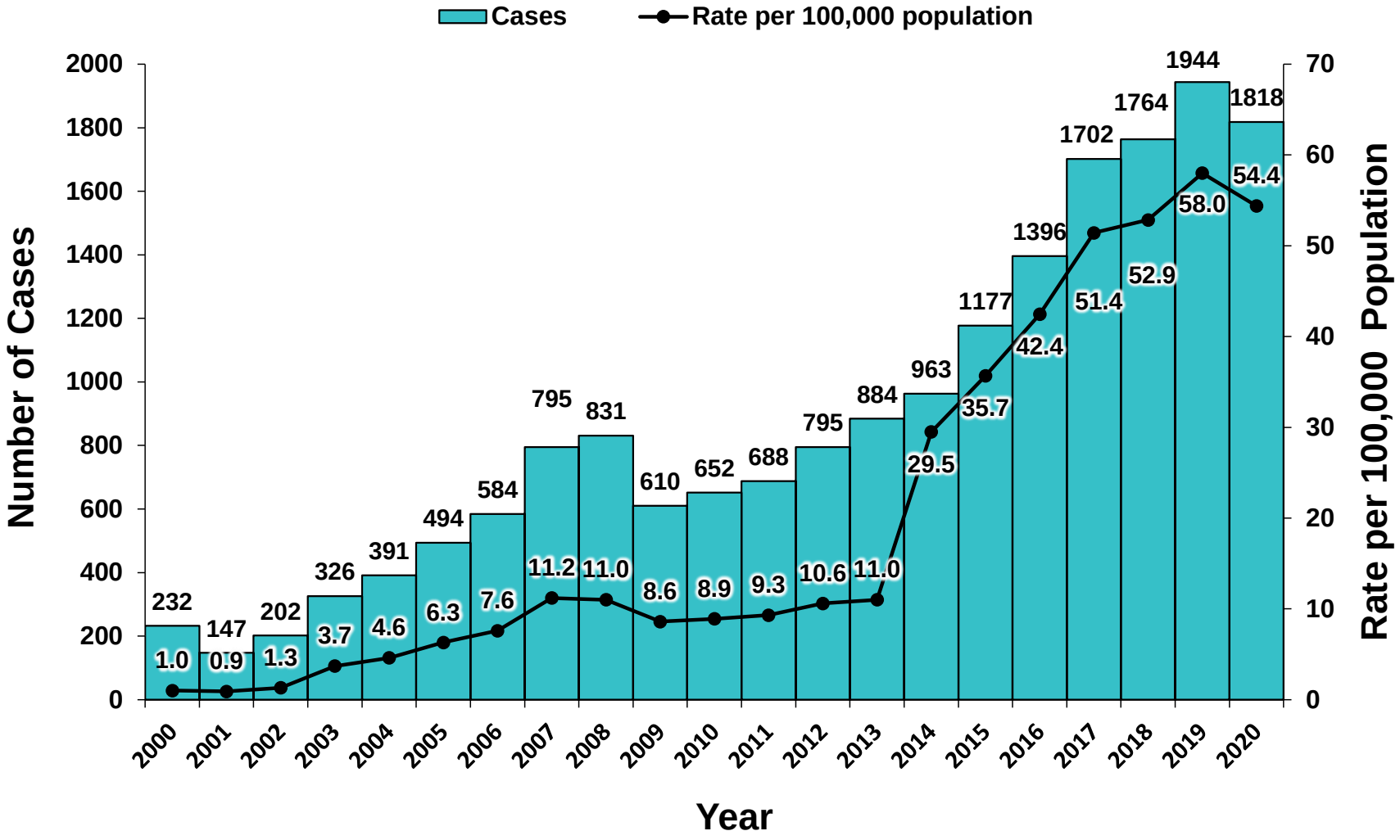
Syphilis (All Stages)
Cases and Rates by Year
San Diego County, 2000 - 2020



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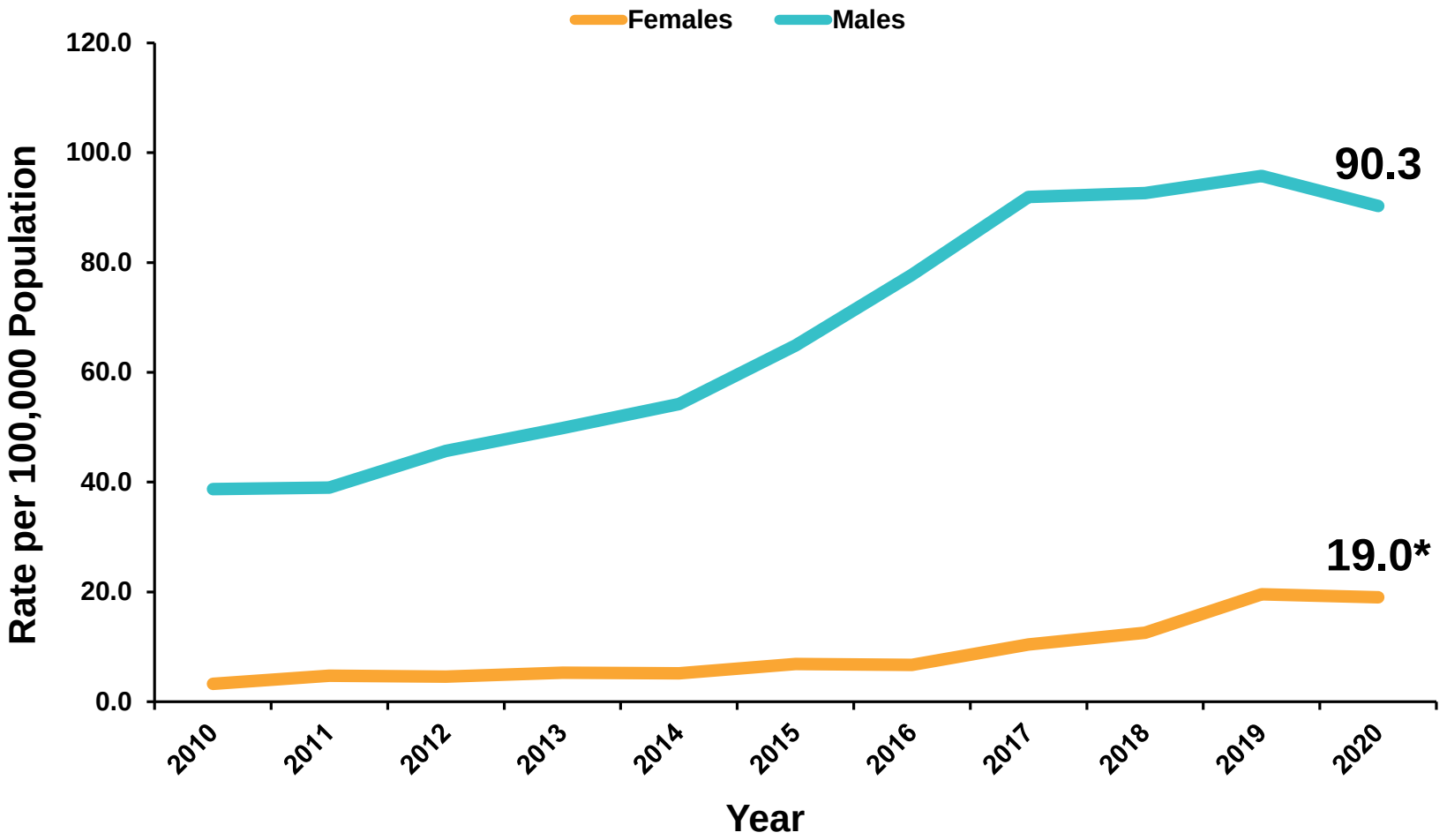
Syphilis (All Stages)
Rates by Gender and Year
San Diego County, 2010 - 2020



*Between 2019 and 2020 the female syphilis rate decreased by 3.1% and the number of cases decreased by 1.2%. Compared to 2018, female syphilis rate and cases both increased by 51% and 54%, respectively.

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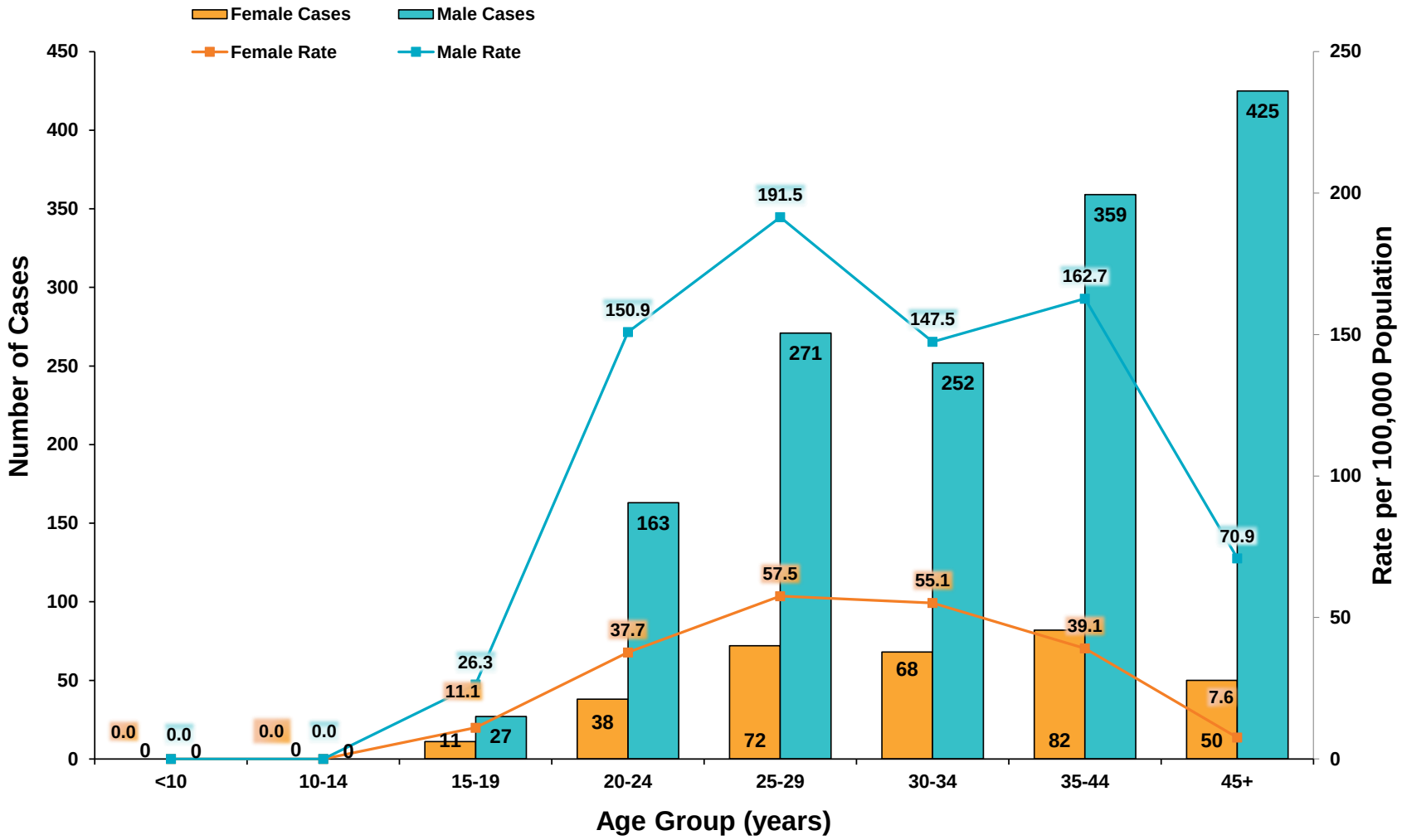
Syphilis (All Stages) Cases and Rates by Gender and Age San Diego County, 2020



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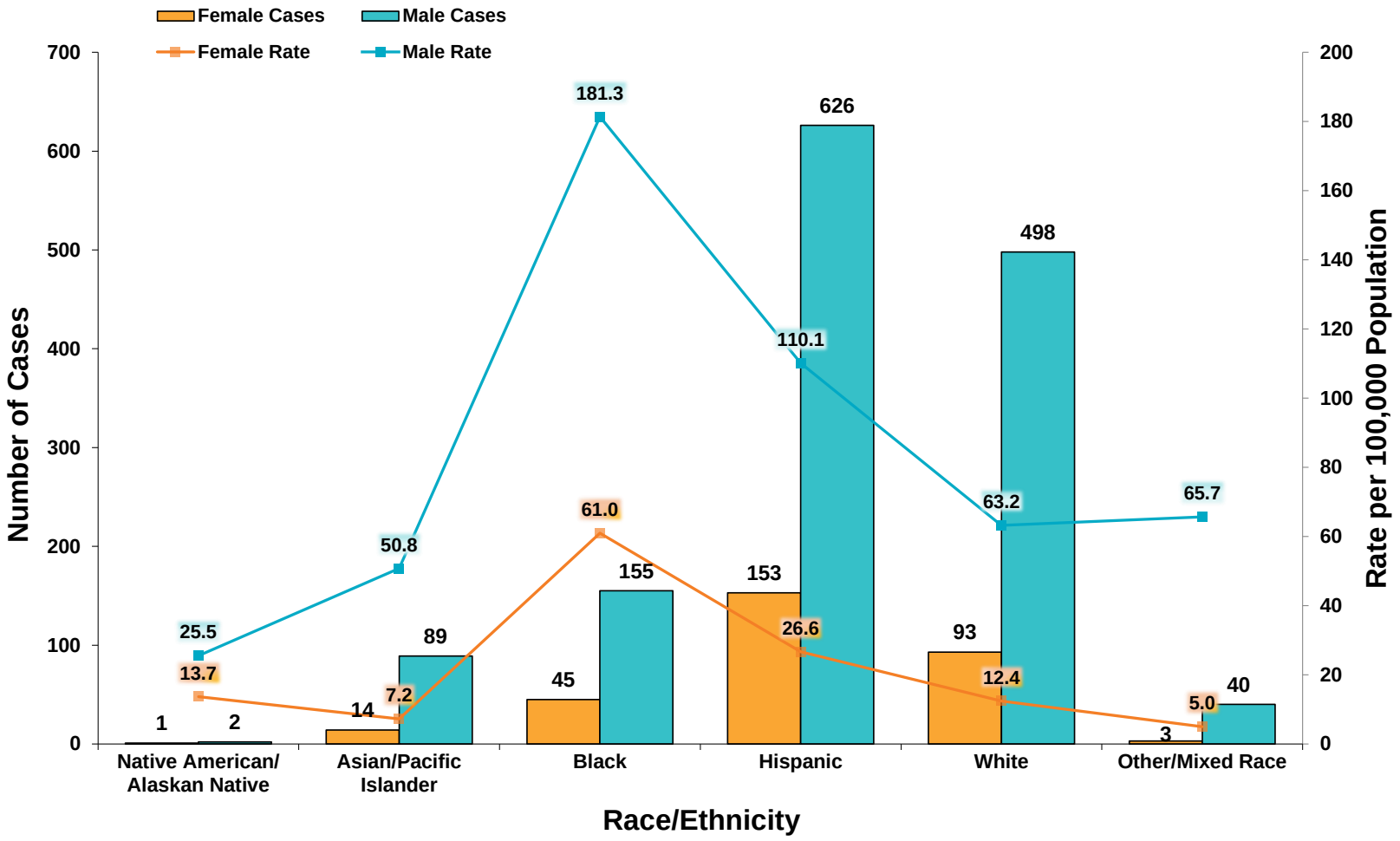
Syphilis (All Stages) Cases and Rates by Gender and Race/Ethnicity San Diego County, 2020



Note: Counts exclude 99 cases missing race/ethnicity information.

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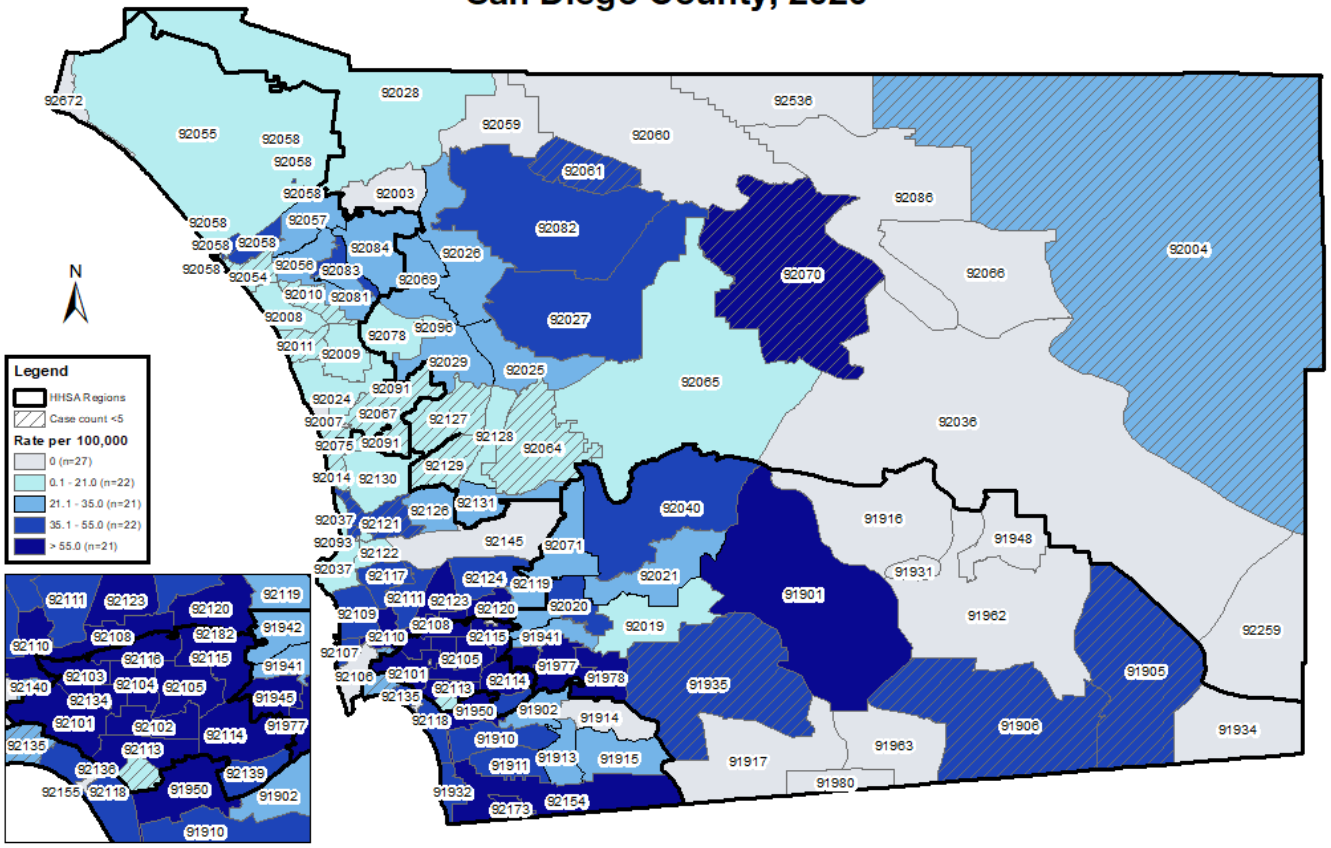
Syphilis (All Stages) Rates by Zip Code
San Diego County, 2020



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, HSHB (HIV, STD, Hepatitis Branch), CalREDIE Database
Map Date: January 19, 2022

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Primary & Secondary Syphilis

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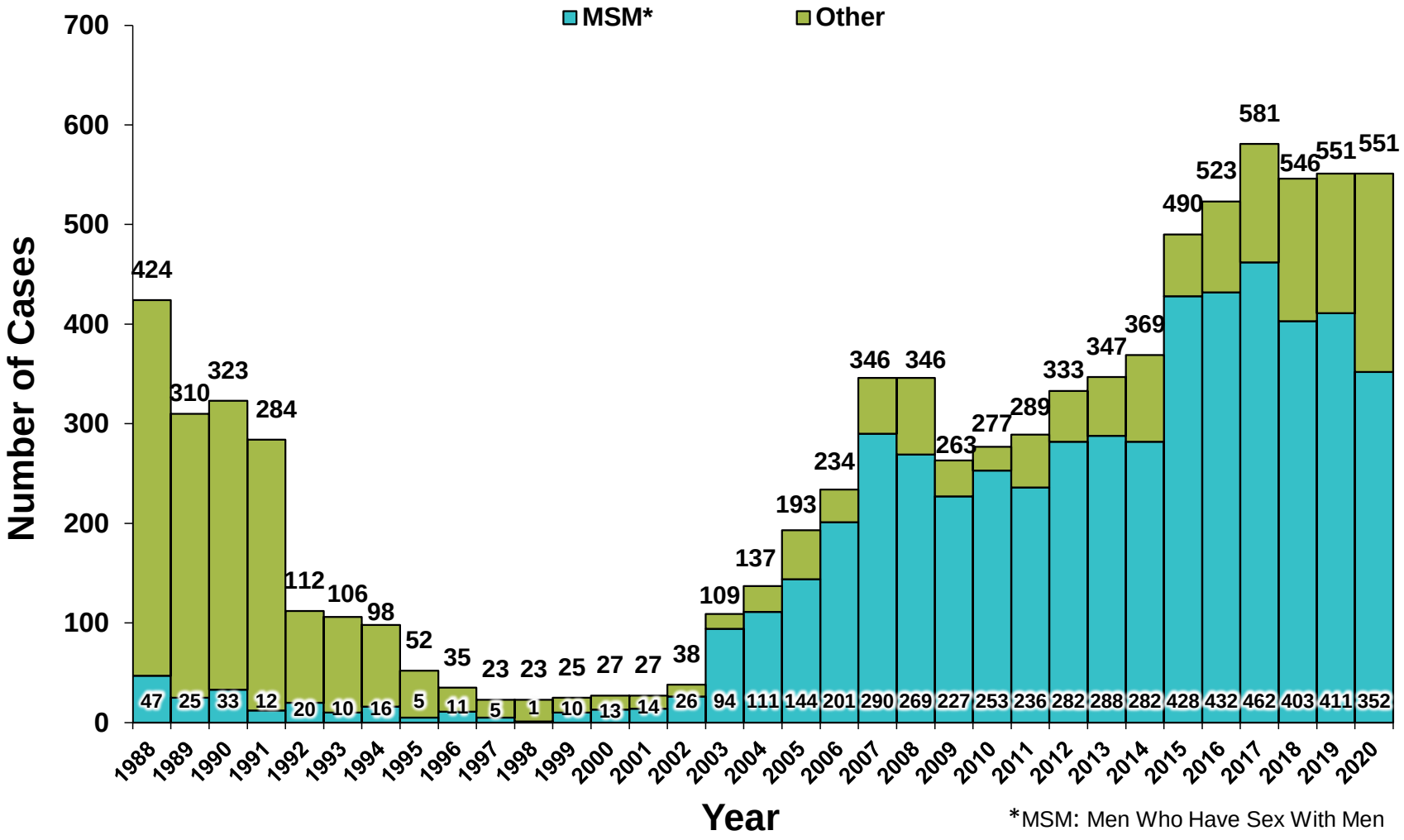
Key Points

Primary & Secondary Syphilis in San Diego County

- There was no change in the number of primary and secondary syphilis cases between 2019 and 2020 (551 cases).
- The overall rate of primary and secondary syphilis increased by 0.6% from 16.4 cases per 100,000 in 2019 to 16.5 cases per 100,000 in 2020.
- The majority of primary and secondary syphilis cases (64%) are men who have sex with men (MSM). An estimated 39% of MSM primary and secondary syphilis cases are living with HIV.
- Rates are highest among males aged 20 to 44 years.
- African-American/black males have the highest rate of infection; the rate of infection in African-American/black males is 2.4 times that of white males.

Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases by Year San Diego County, 1988 - 2020



*MSM: Men Who Have Sex With Men

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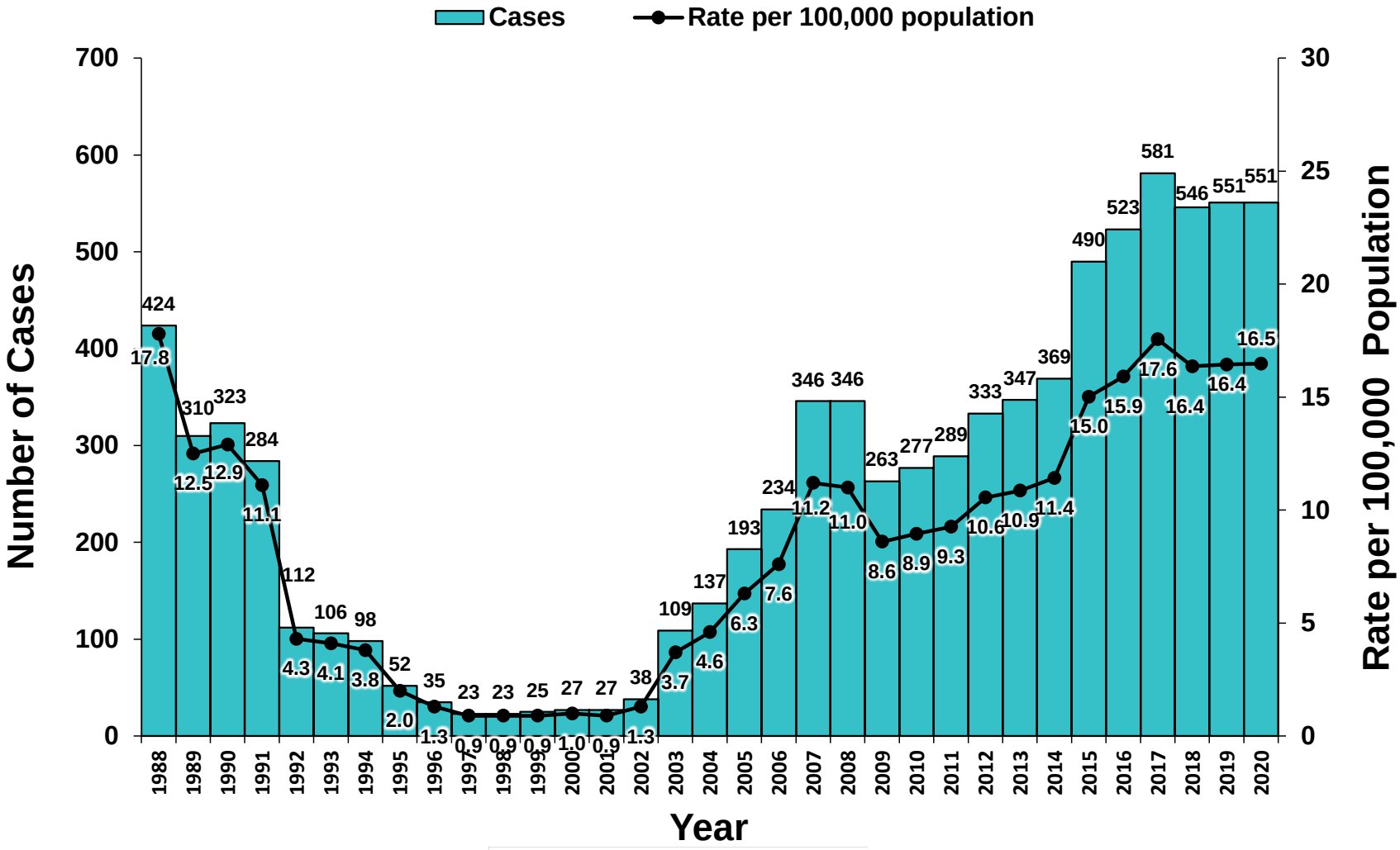
Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases and Rates by Year San Diego County, 1988 - 2020



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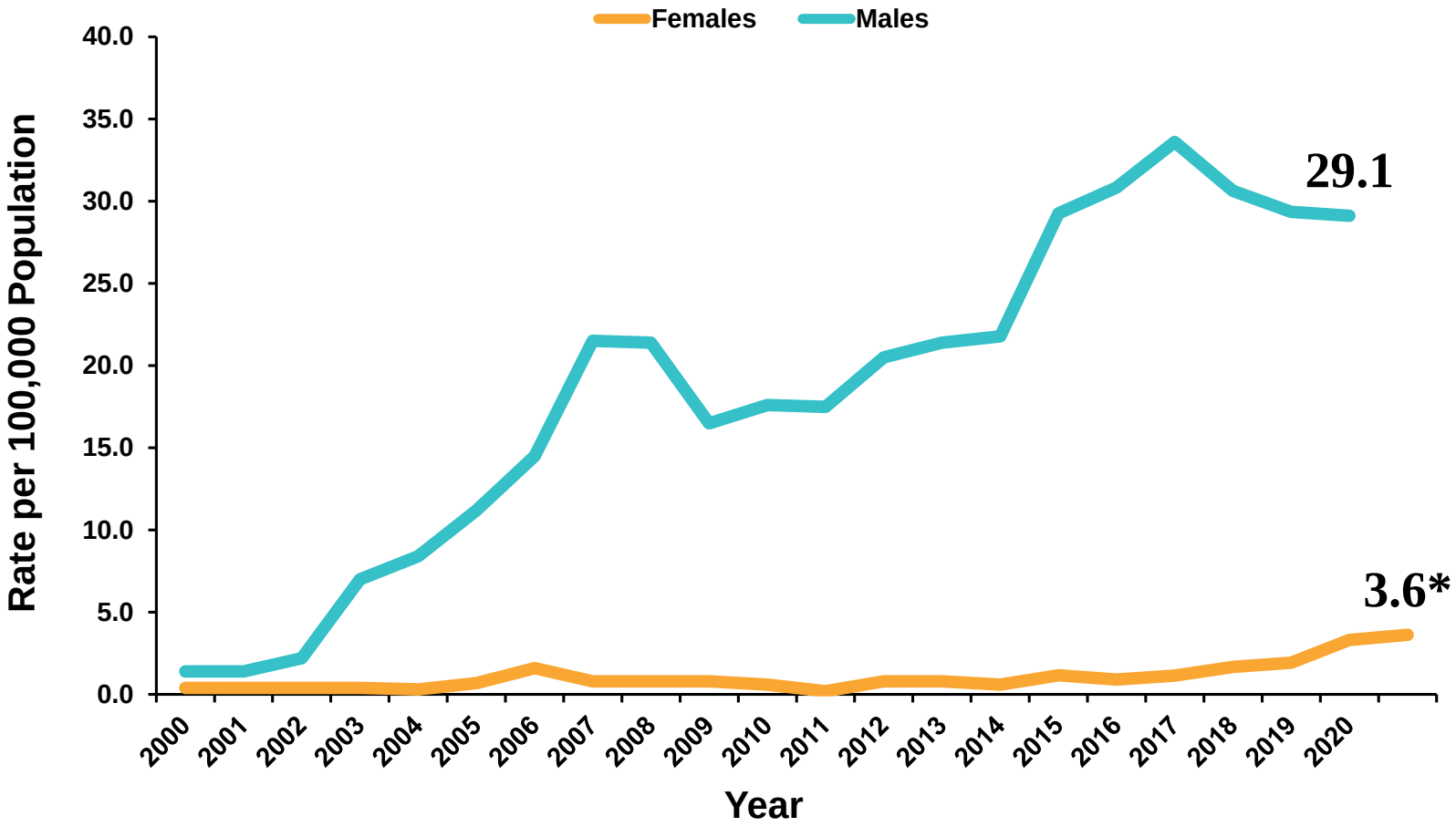
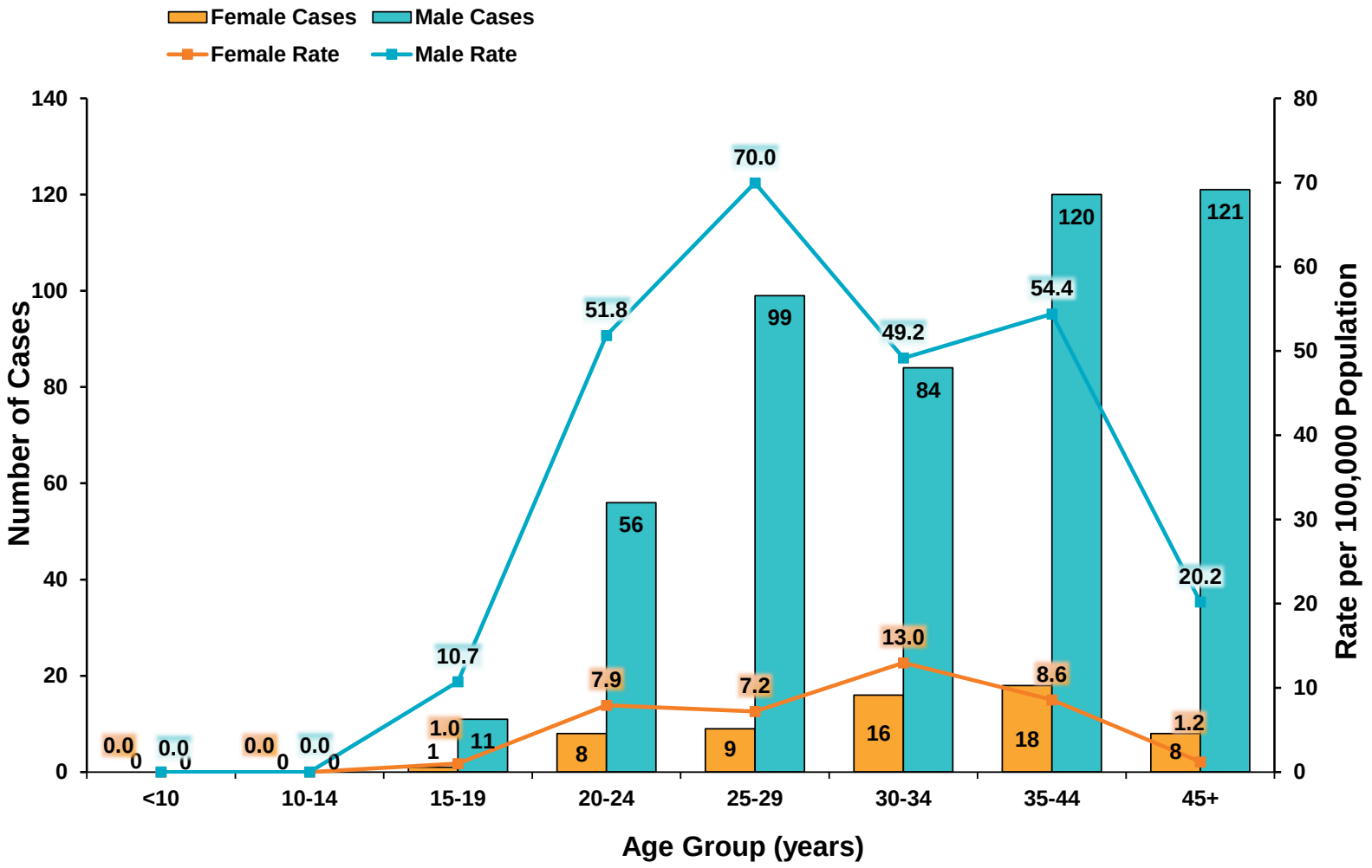
Primary & Secondary Syphilis Rates by Gender and Year San Diego County, 2000 - 2020



* Between 2019 and 2020 primary and secondary syphilis rates increased by 9.1% in females and decreased by 0.7% in males.

Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases and Rates by Gender and Age San Diego County, 2020



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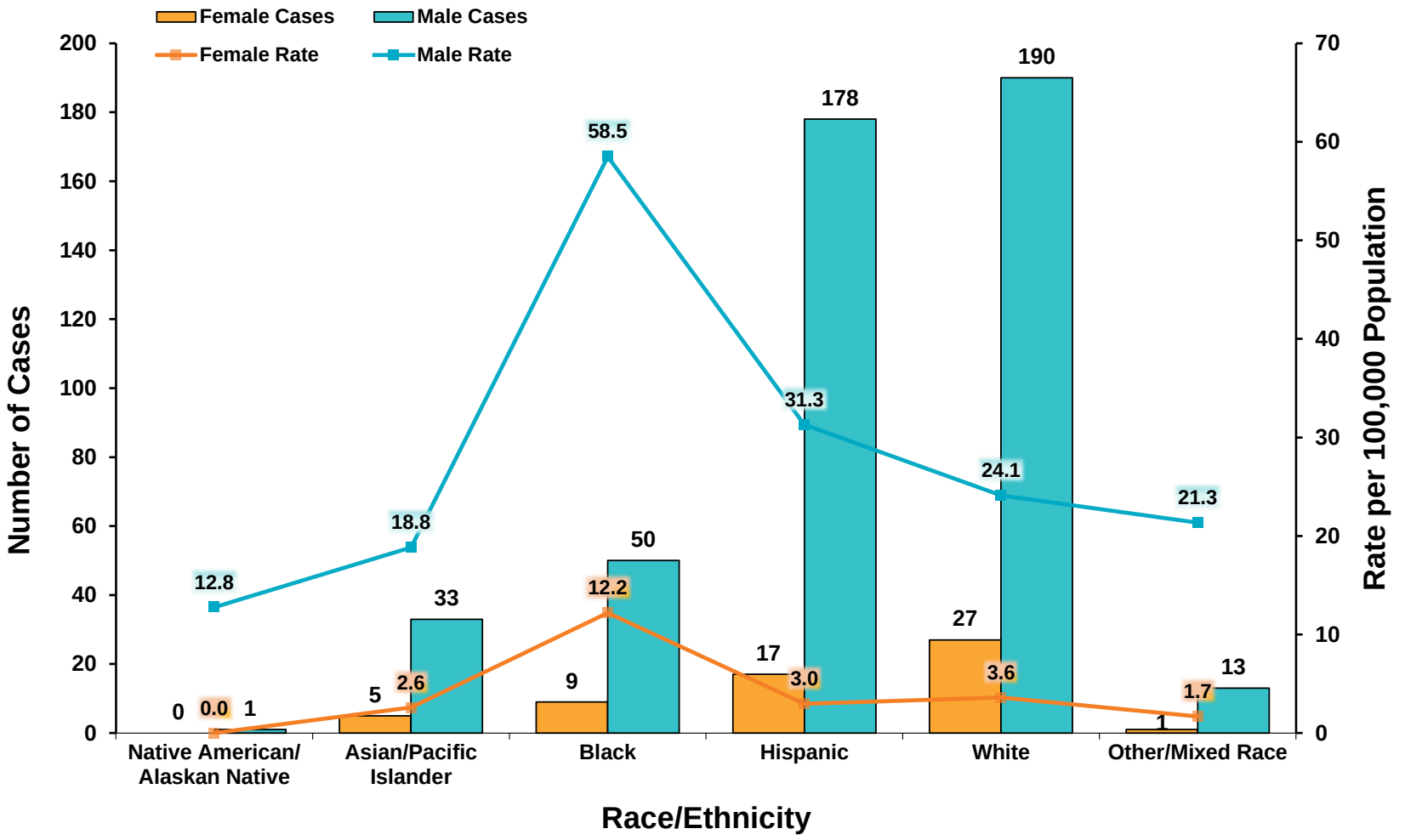
Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases and Rates by Gender and Race/Ethnicity San Diego County, 2020



Note: Counts exclude 27 cases missing race/ethnicity information.

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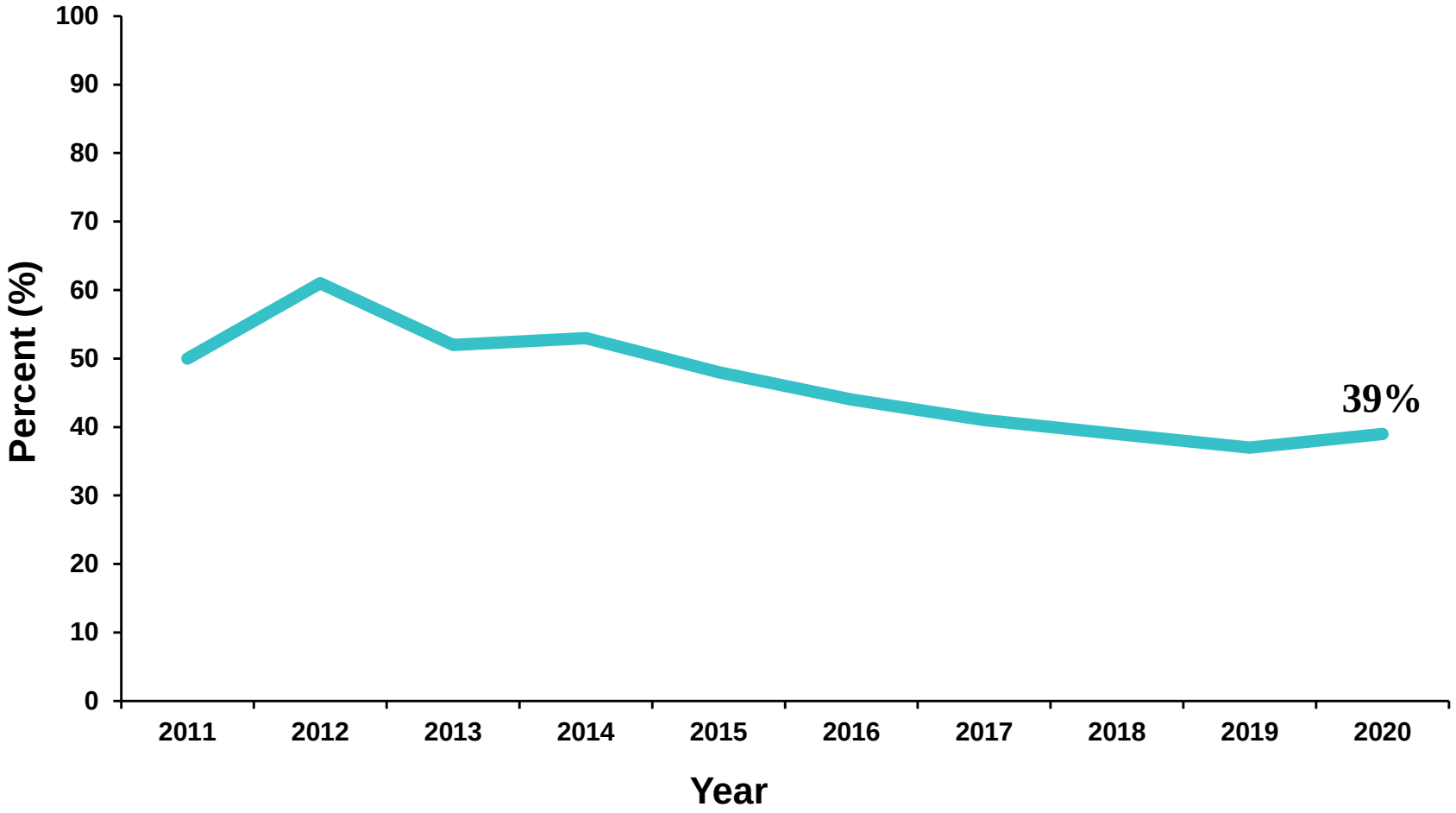
Percent of MSM* Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases Living with HIV by Year San Diego County, 2011 - 2020



*MSM: Men Who Have Sex With Men

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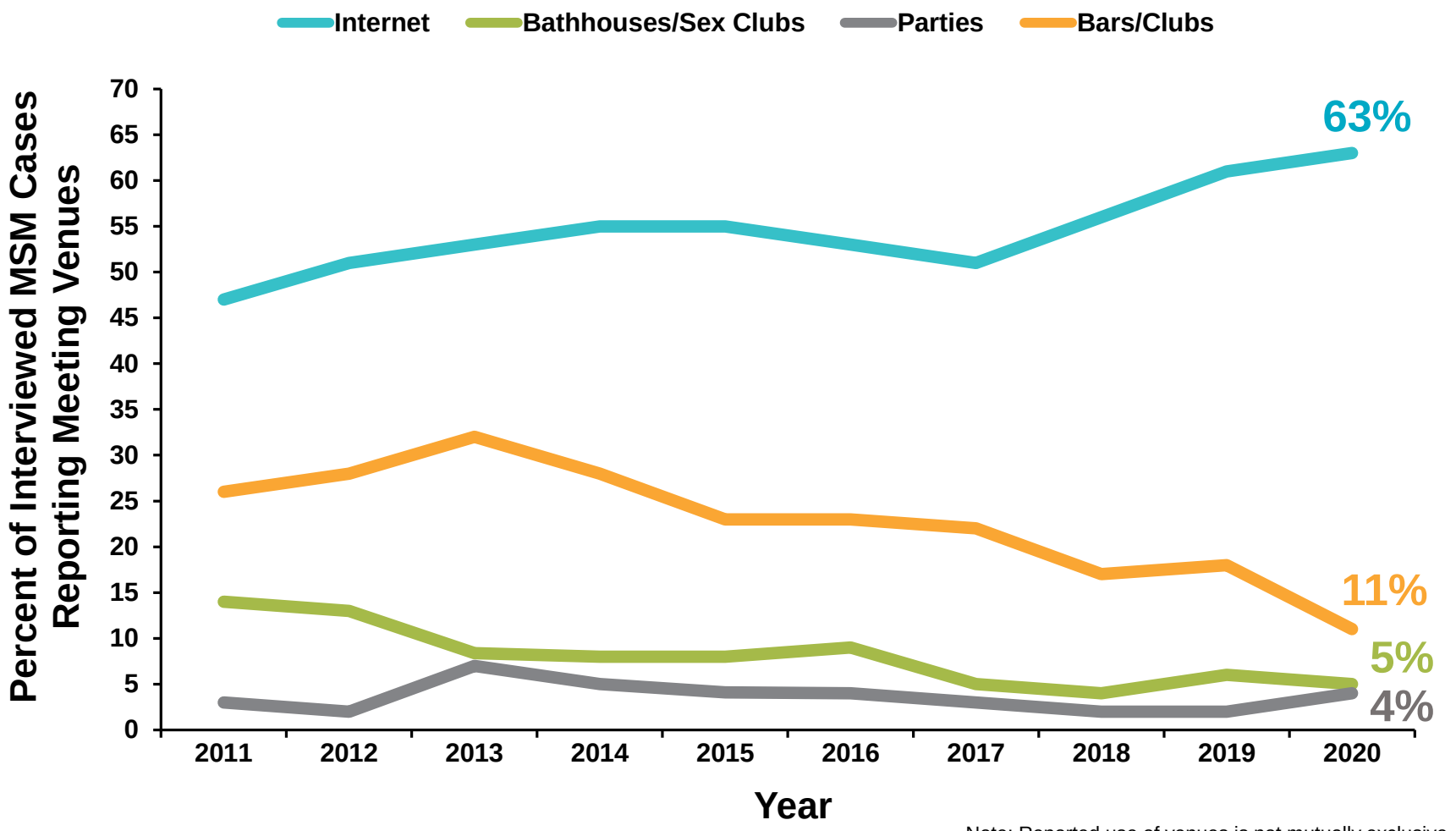
Meeting Venues Among Interviewed MSM* Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases San Diego County, 2011 – 2020



Note: Reported use of venues is not mutually exclusive.
*MSM: Men Who Have Sex With Men.

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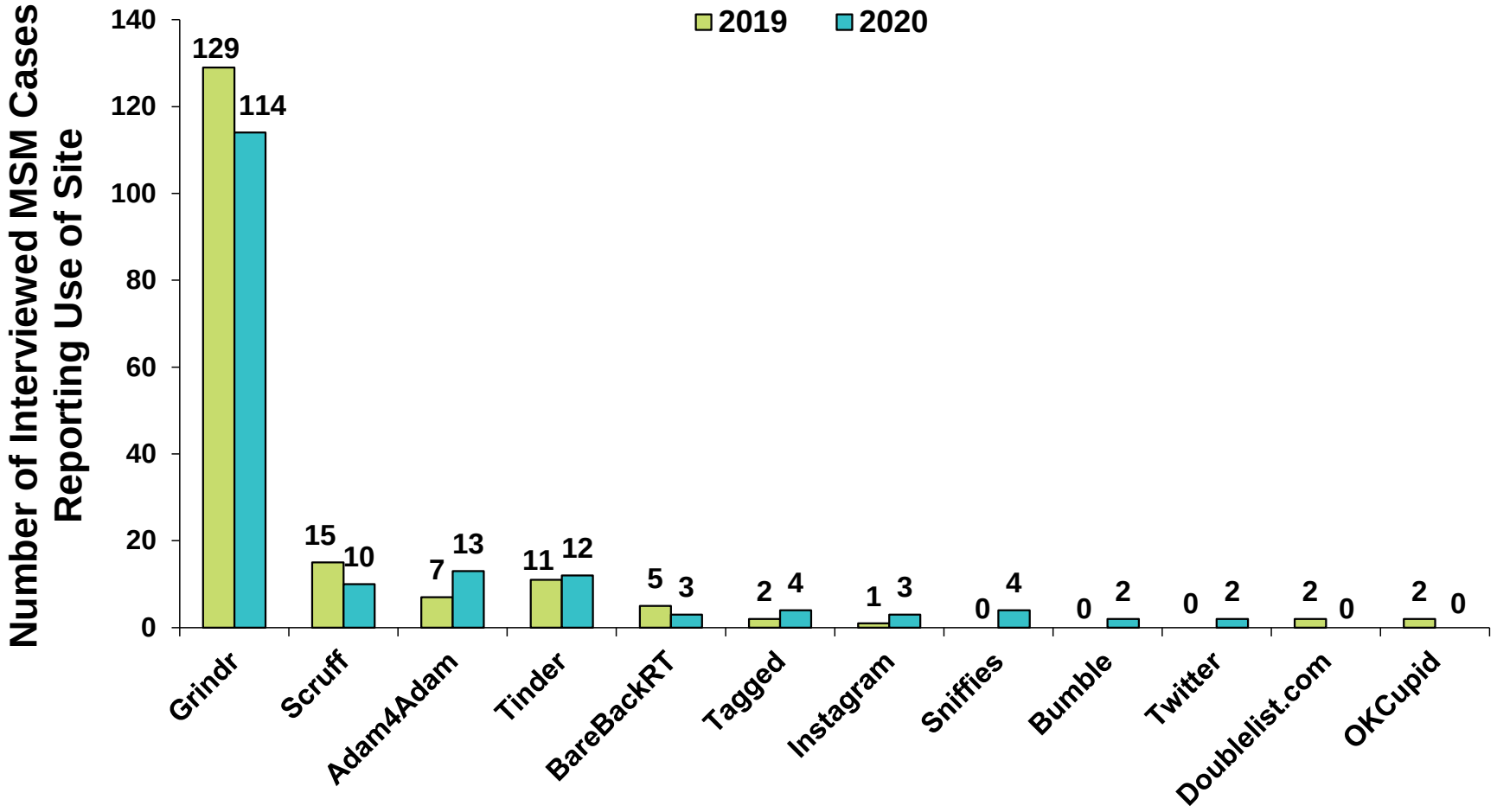
Reported Use of Internet-Based Services* Among MSM** Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases San Diego County, 2019 – 2020



Note: Reported use of sites is not mutually exclusive.
* Included websites have been used by at least 2 MSM cases per year in 2019 or 2020.
**MSM: Men Who Have Sex With Men

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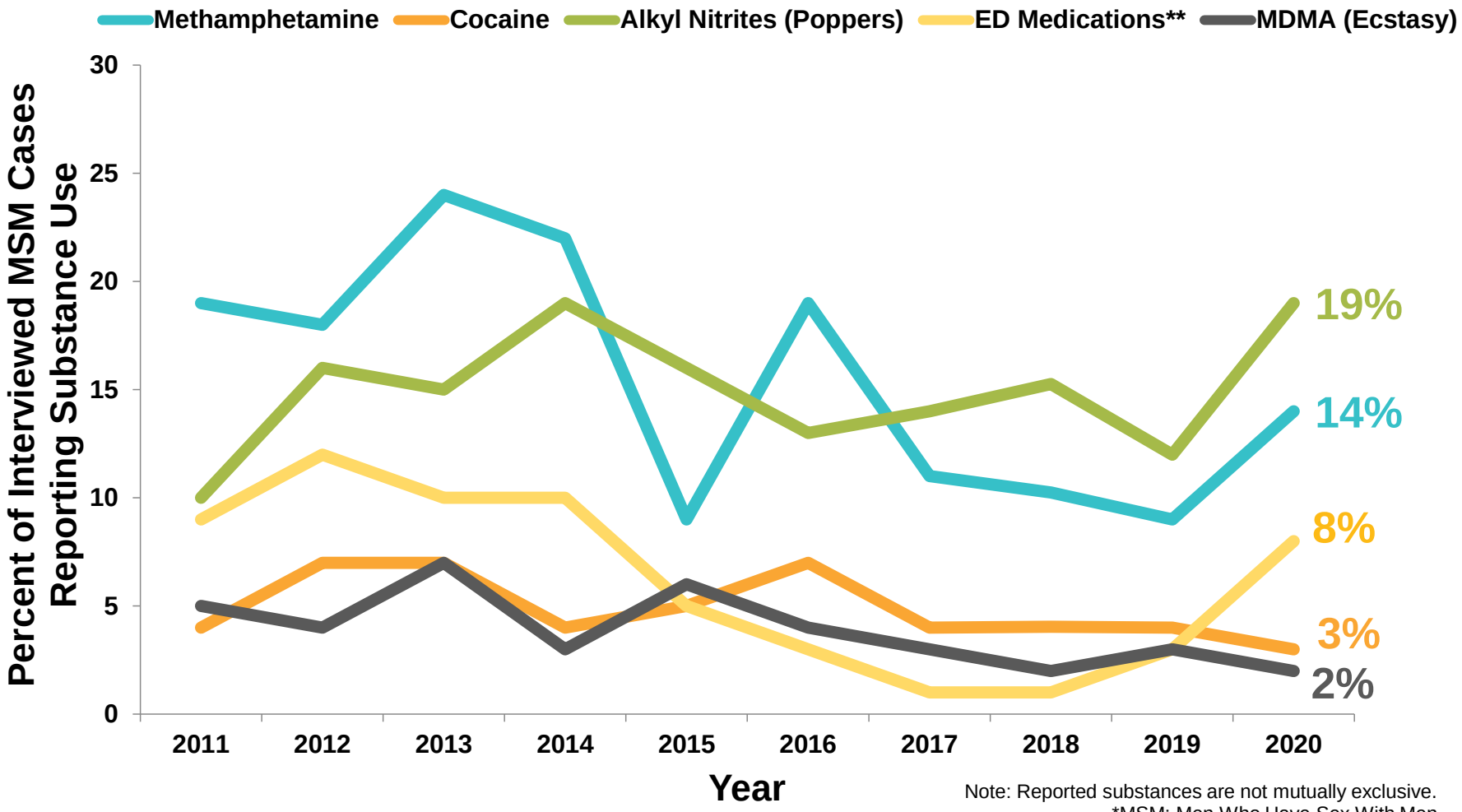
Reported Substance Use of Interviewed MSM* Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases by Year San Diego County, 2011 – 2020



Note: Reported substances are not mutually exclusive.
*MSM: Men Who Have Sex With Men
** ED Medications: Erectile Dysfunction Medications

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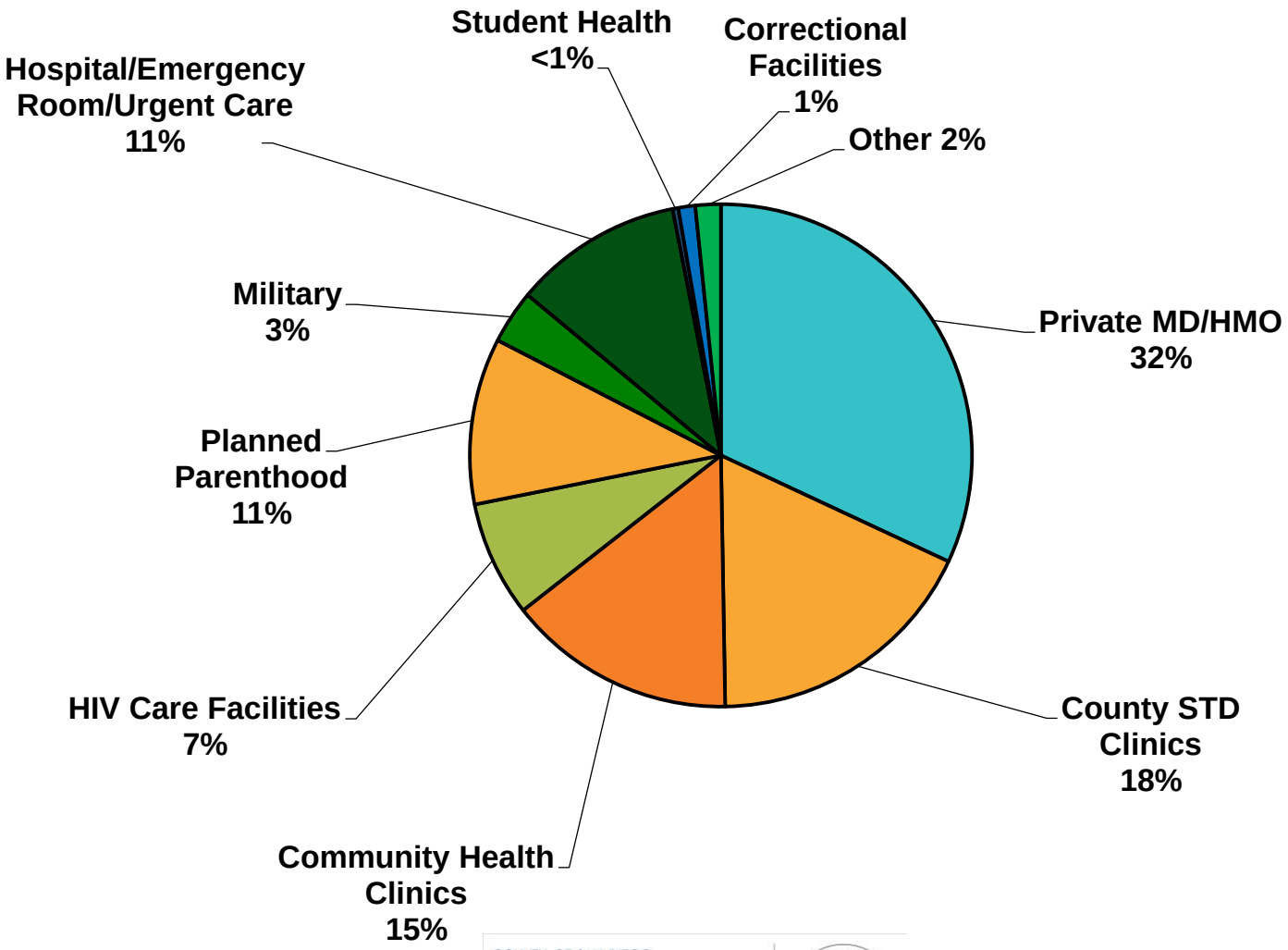
Primary & Secondary Syphilis Cases by Reporting Facility Type San Diego County, 2020



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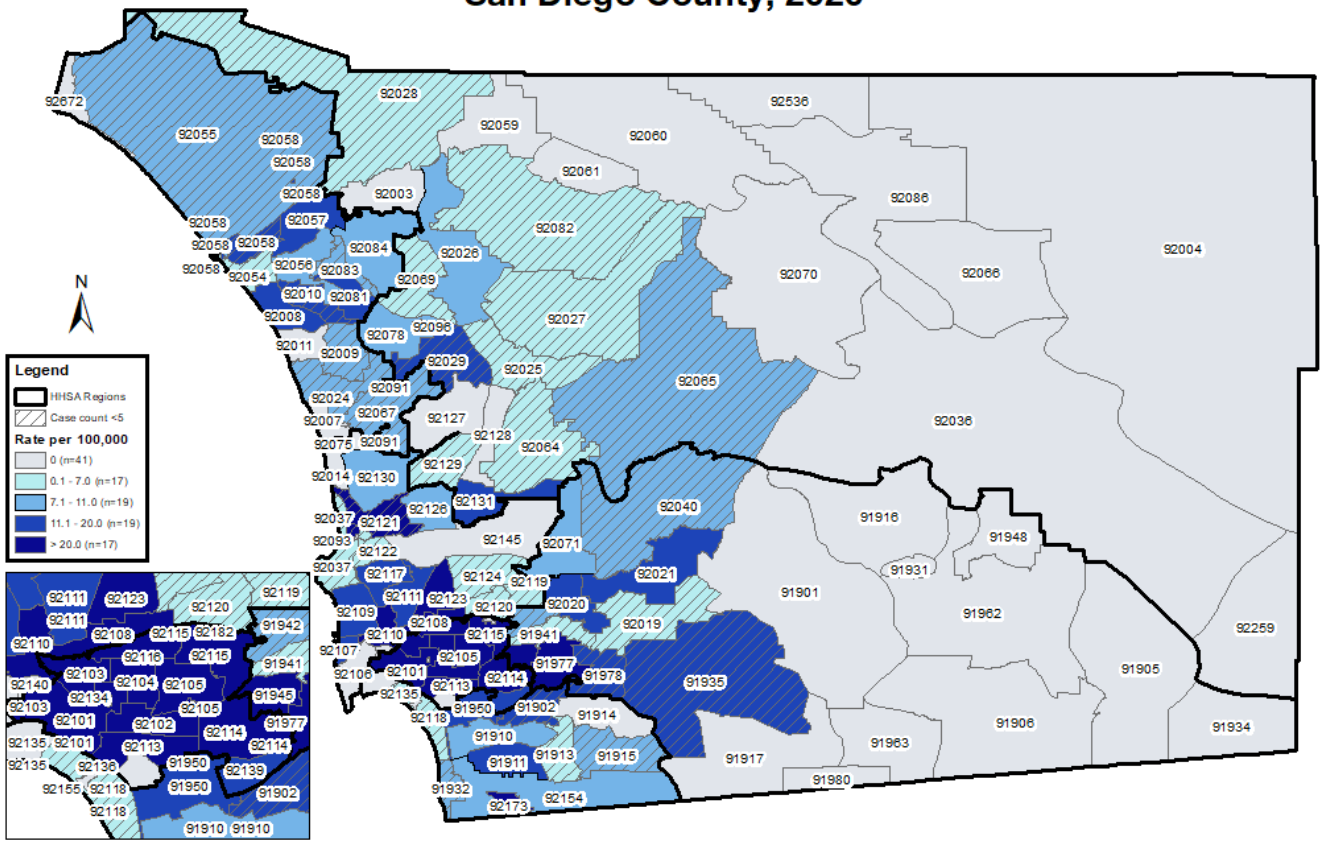
Primary and Secondary Syphilis Rates by Zip Code
San Diego County, 2020



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, HSHB (HIV, STD, Hepatitis Branch), CalREDIE Database
Map Date: January 19, 2022

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Early (Primary, Secondary, & Early Latent) Syphilis

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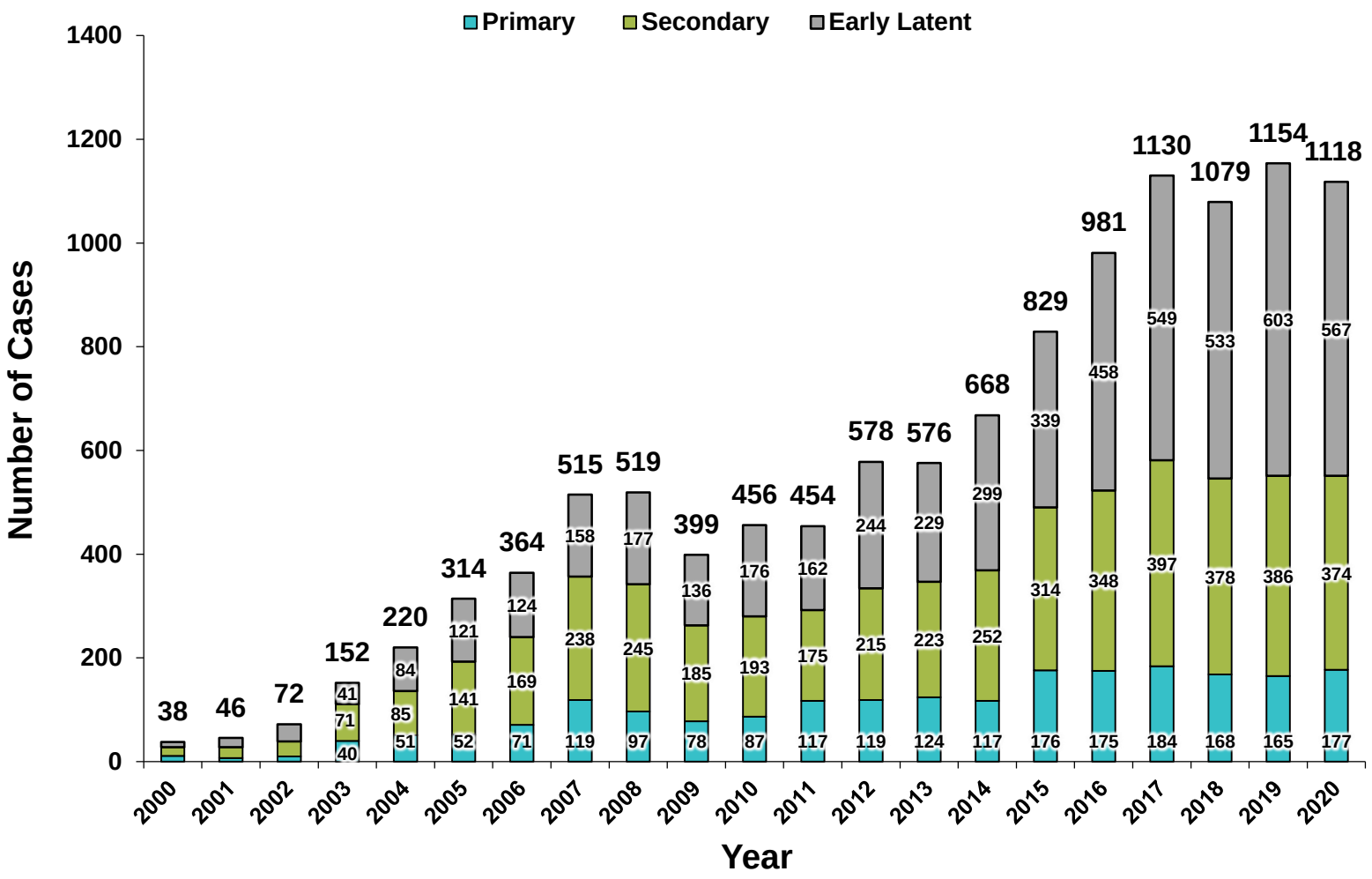
Key Points

Early Syphilis in San Diego County

- Cases of early syphilis decreased by 3.1% from 1,154 cases in 2019 to 1,118 cases in 2020.
- The overall rate of early syphilis decreased by 2.9% from 34.4 cases per 100,000 in 2019 to 33.4 cases per 100,000 in 2020.
- The majority of early syphilis cases (72.3%) are men who have sex with men (MSM). An estimated 52.6% of MSM early syphilis cases are living with HIV.
- Rates are highest among males aged 25 to 44 years.
- African-American/black males have the highest rate of infection; the rate of infection in African-American/black males is 2.1 times that of white males.

Early Syphilis Cases by Year and Stage
San Diego County, 2000 - 2020



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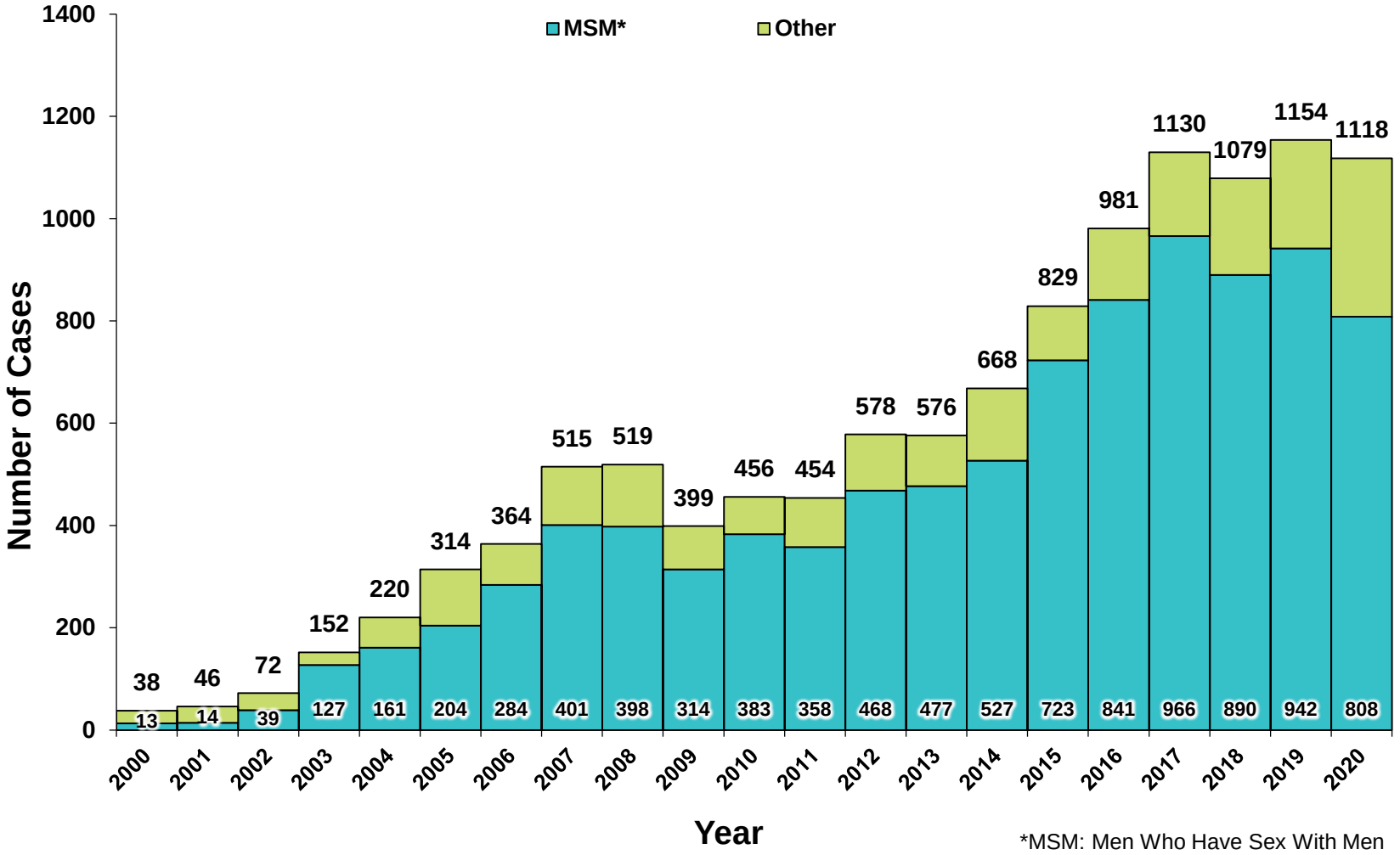
Early Syphilis Cases by Year
San Diego County, 2000 - 2020



*MSM: Men Who Have Sex With Men

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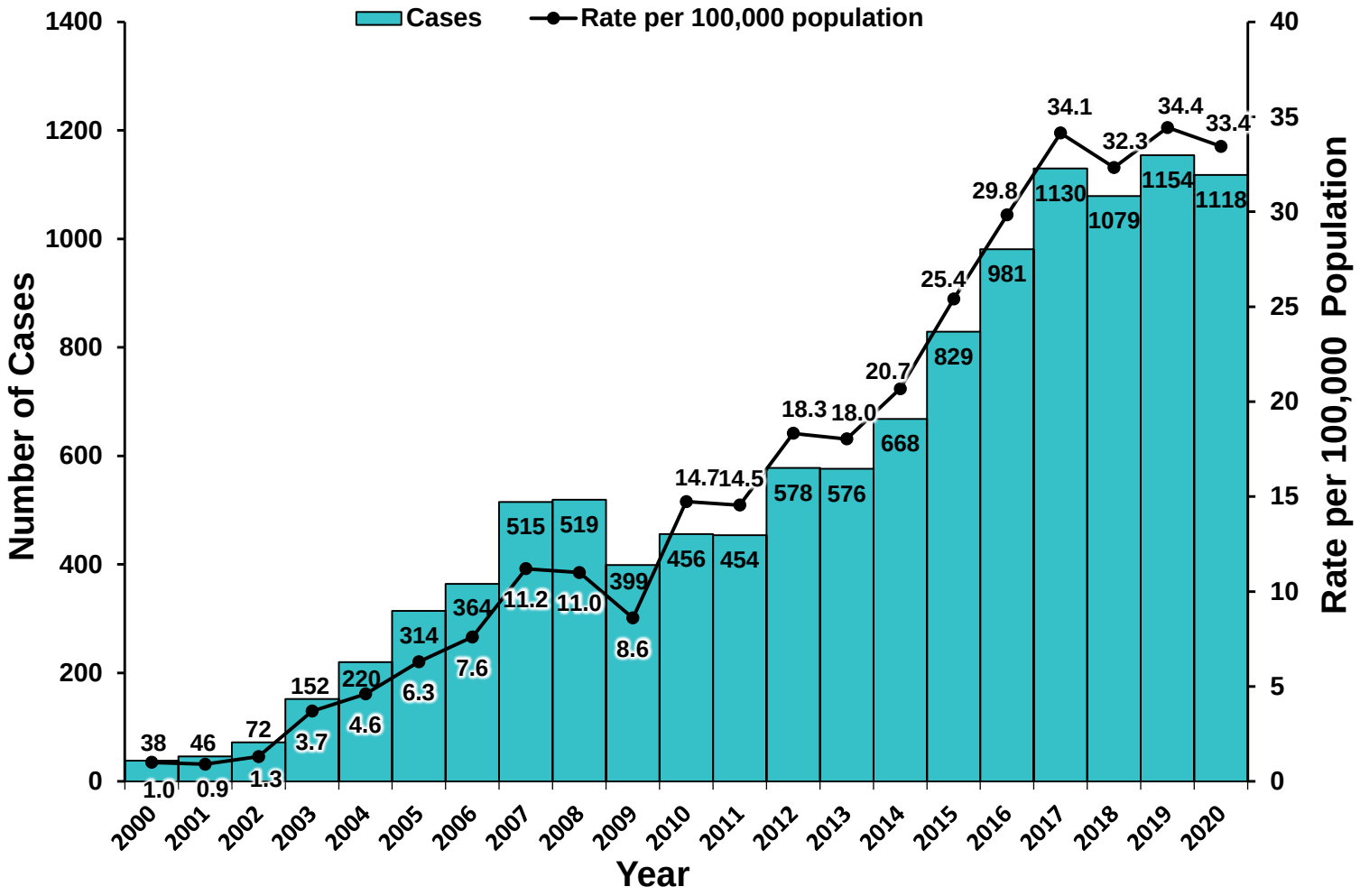
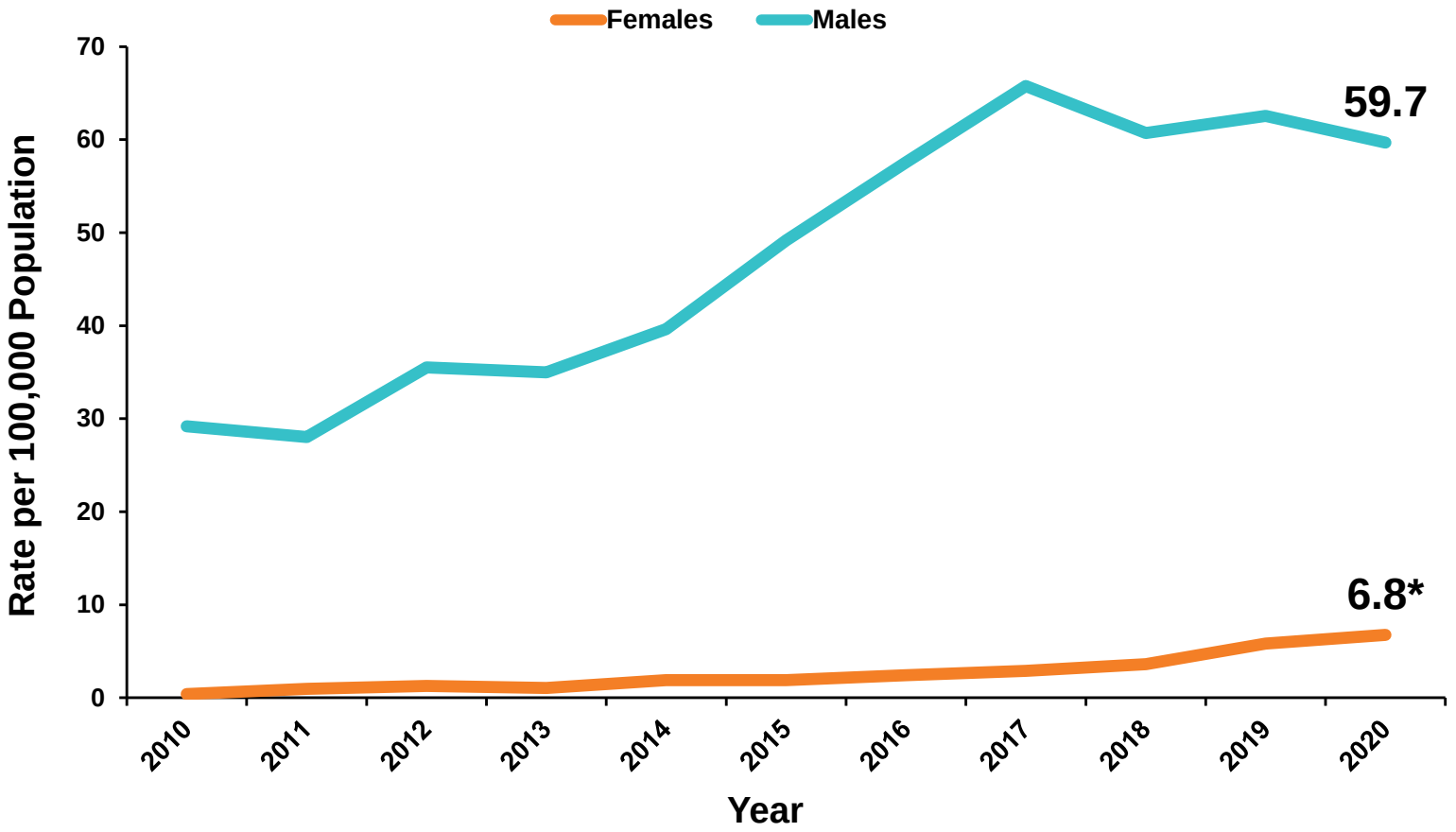
Early Syphilis Cases and Rates by Year
San Diego County, 2000 - 2020



Note: Early Syphilis includes primary, secondary and early latent

Early Syphilis Rates by Gender and Year
San Diego County, 2010 - 2020



* Between 2019 and 2020 the female early syphilis rate increased by 17% and the number of cases increased by 15%.

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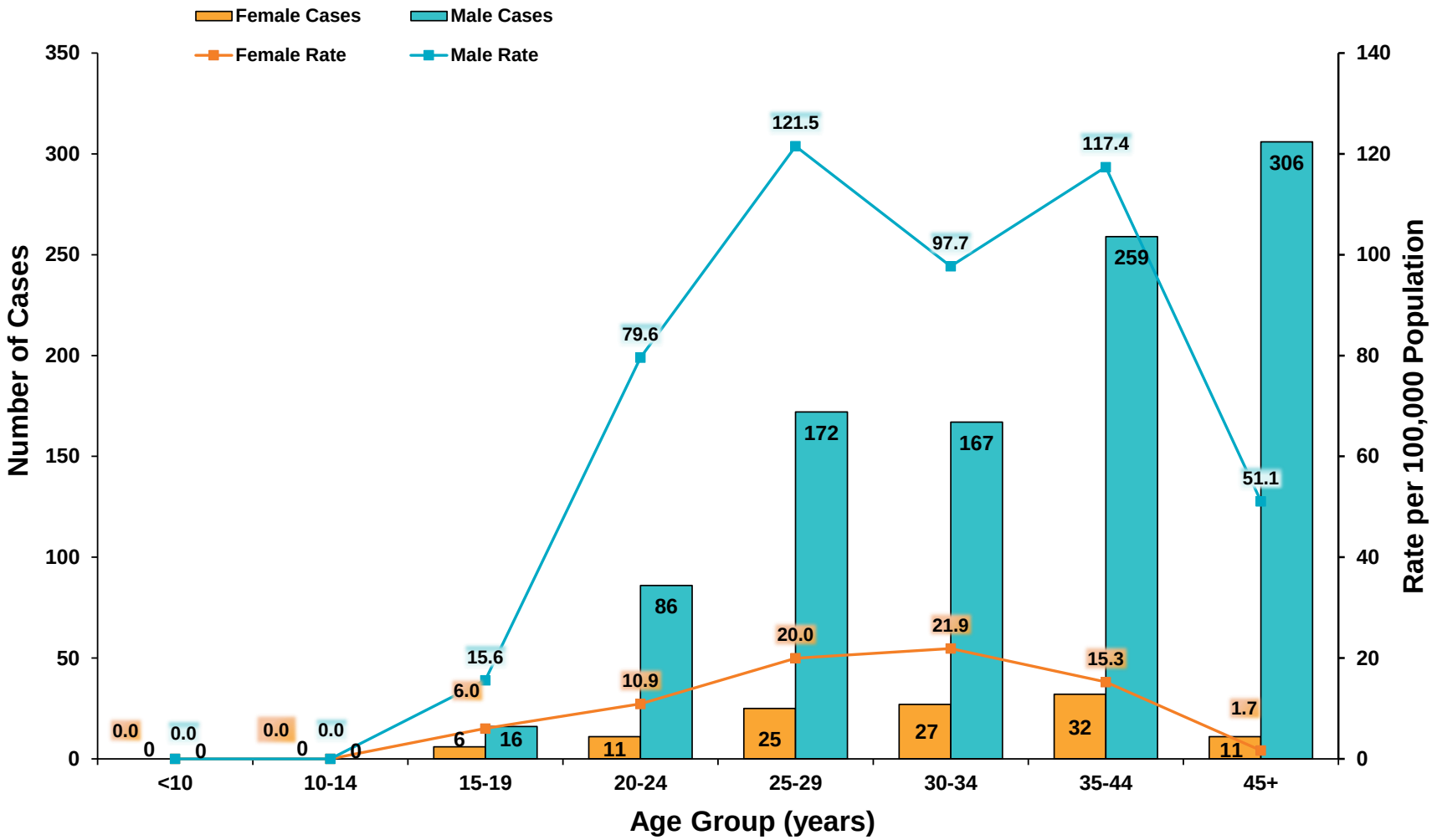
Early Syphilis Cases and Rates by Gender and Age San Diego County, 2020



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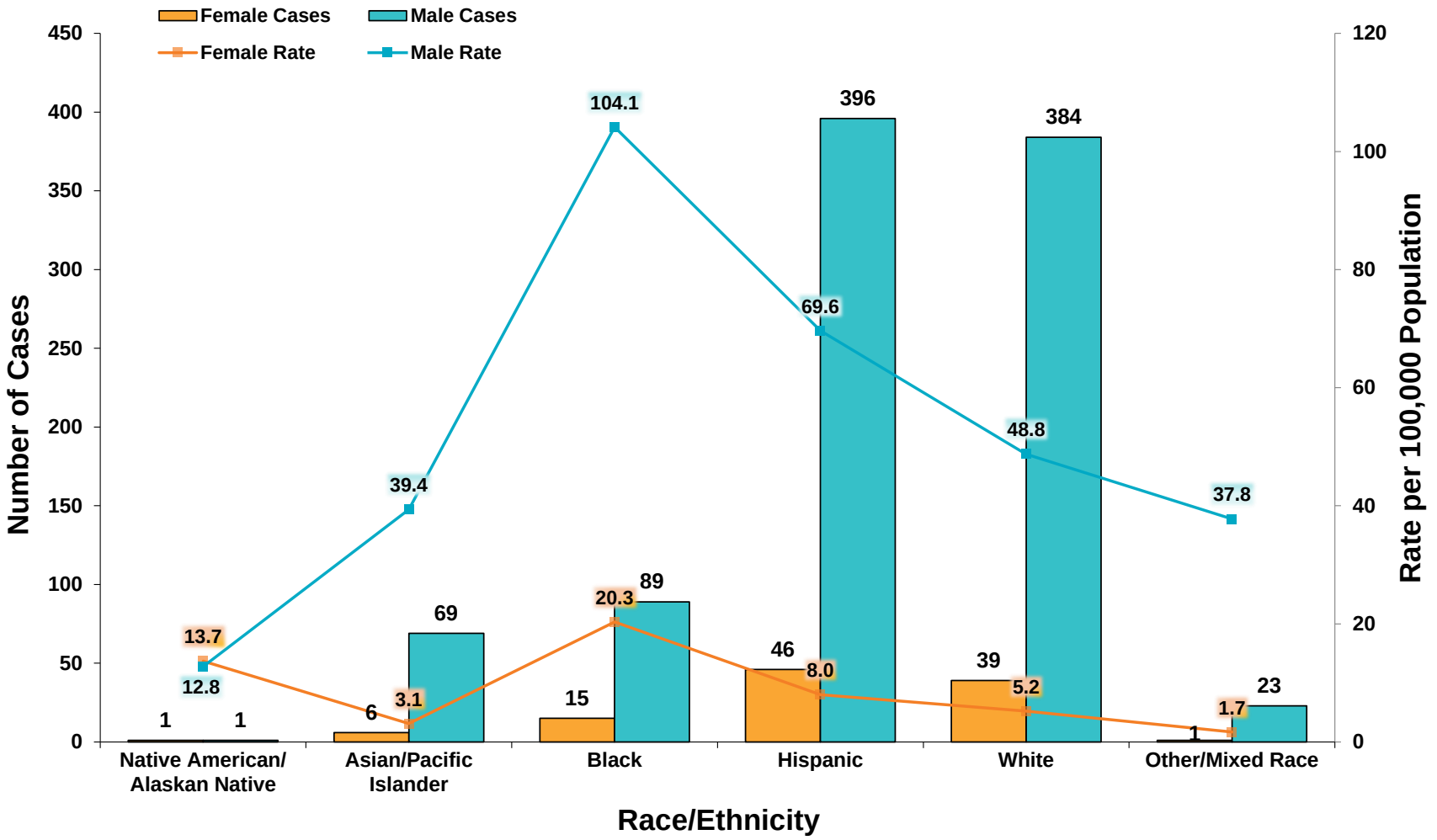
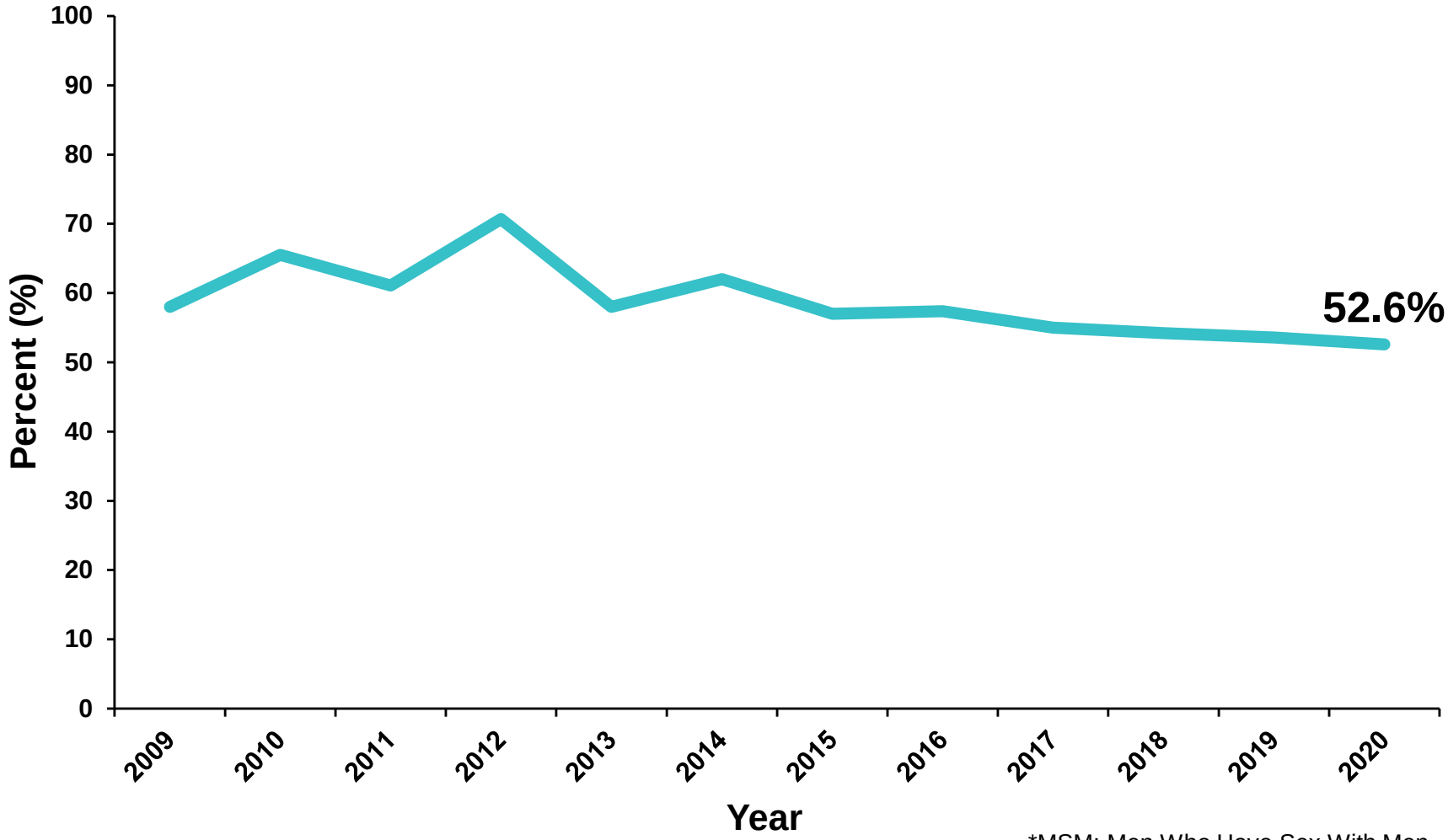
Early Syphilis Cases and Rates by Gender and Race/Ethnicity San Diego County, 2020



Note: Counts exclude 48 cases missing race/ethnicity information.

Percent of MSM* Early Syphilis Cases Living with HIV by Year San Diego County, 2009 - 2020



*MSM: Men Who Have Sex With Men

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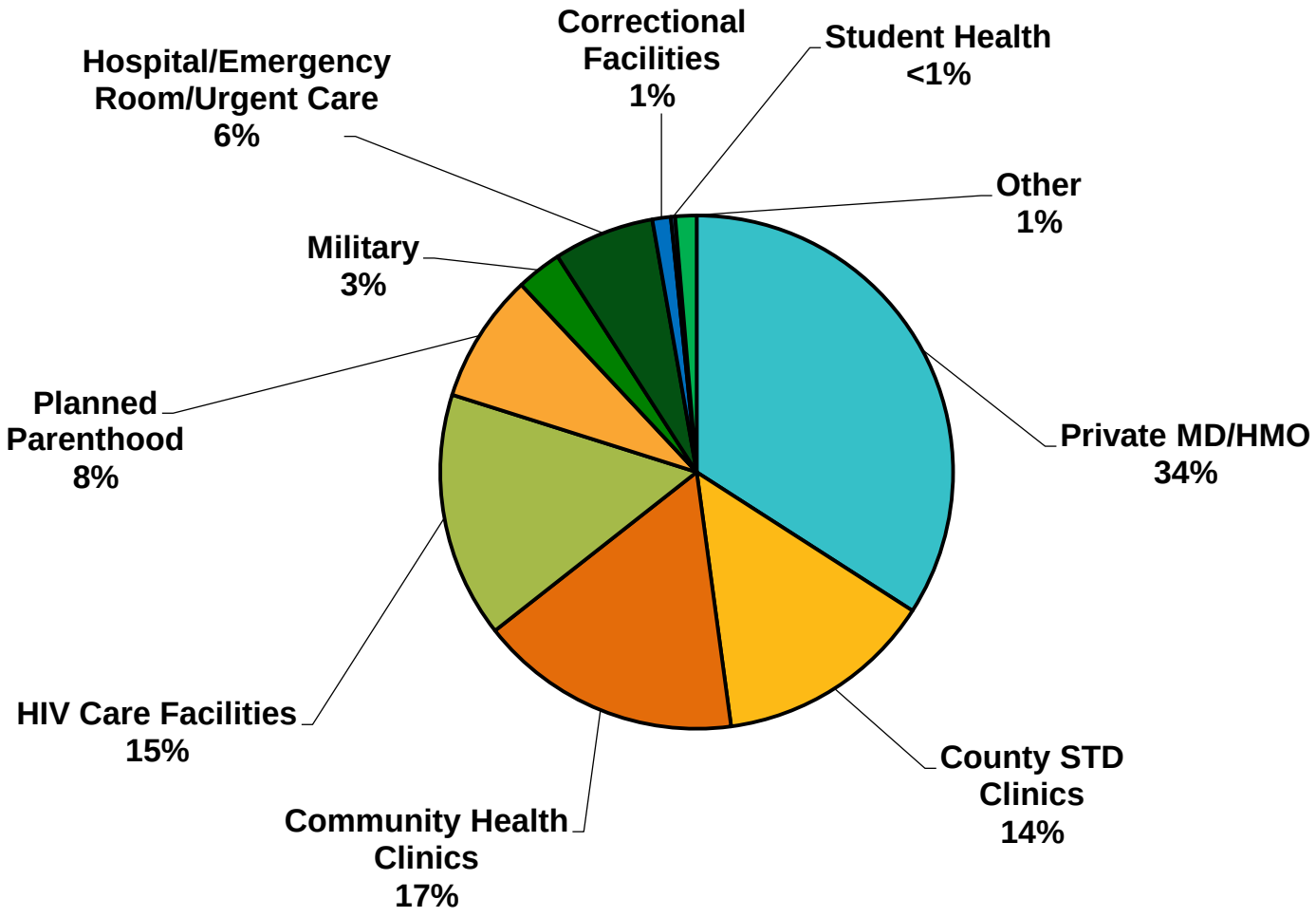
Early Syphilis Cases by Reporting Facility Type San Diego County, 2020



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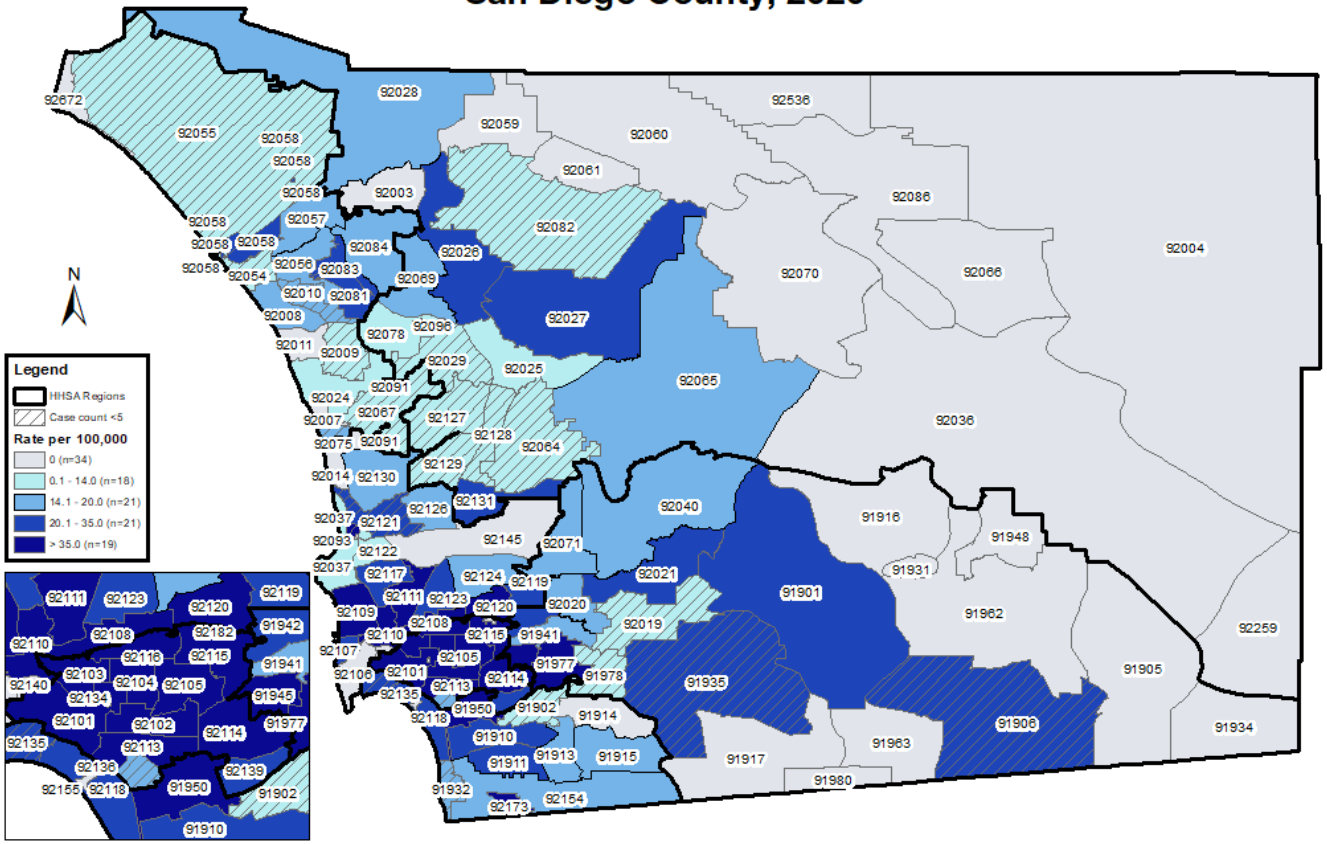
Early Syphilis Rates by Zip Code
San Diego County, 2020



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, HSHB (HIV, STD, Hepatitis Branch), CalREDIE Database
Map Date: January 19, 2022

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Female & Congenital Syphilis

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Congenital Syphilis Surveillance Definitions

- Congenital Syphilis (C.S.): any infant whose mother had untreated or inadequately treated* syphilis at the time of delivery, regardless of findings in the infant or child
  - Confirmed C.S.: Infant or child in whom *Treponema pallidum* is identified by darkfield microscopy, direct fluorescent antibody, or other specific stains in specimens from lesions, placenta, umbilical cord, or autopsy material
  - Probable C.S.: Meets case definition of C.S. This may also include an infant or child with a reactive treponemal test for syphilis and evidence of C.S. on physical examination, cerebrospinal fluid analysis, and/or long bone X-ray.
  - Syphilitic Stillbirth: Fetal death in which mother had untreated or inadequately treated* syphilis at the time of delivery of either a fetus after a 20-week gestation or a fetus weighing >500 grams.

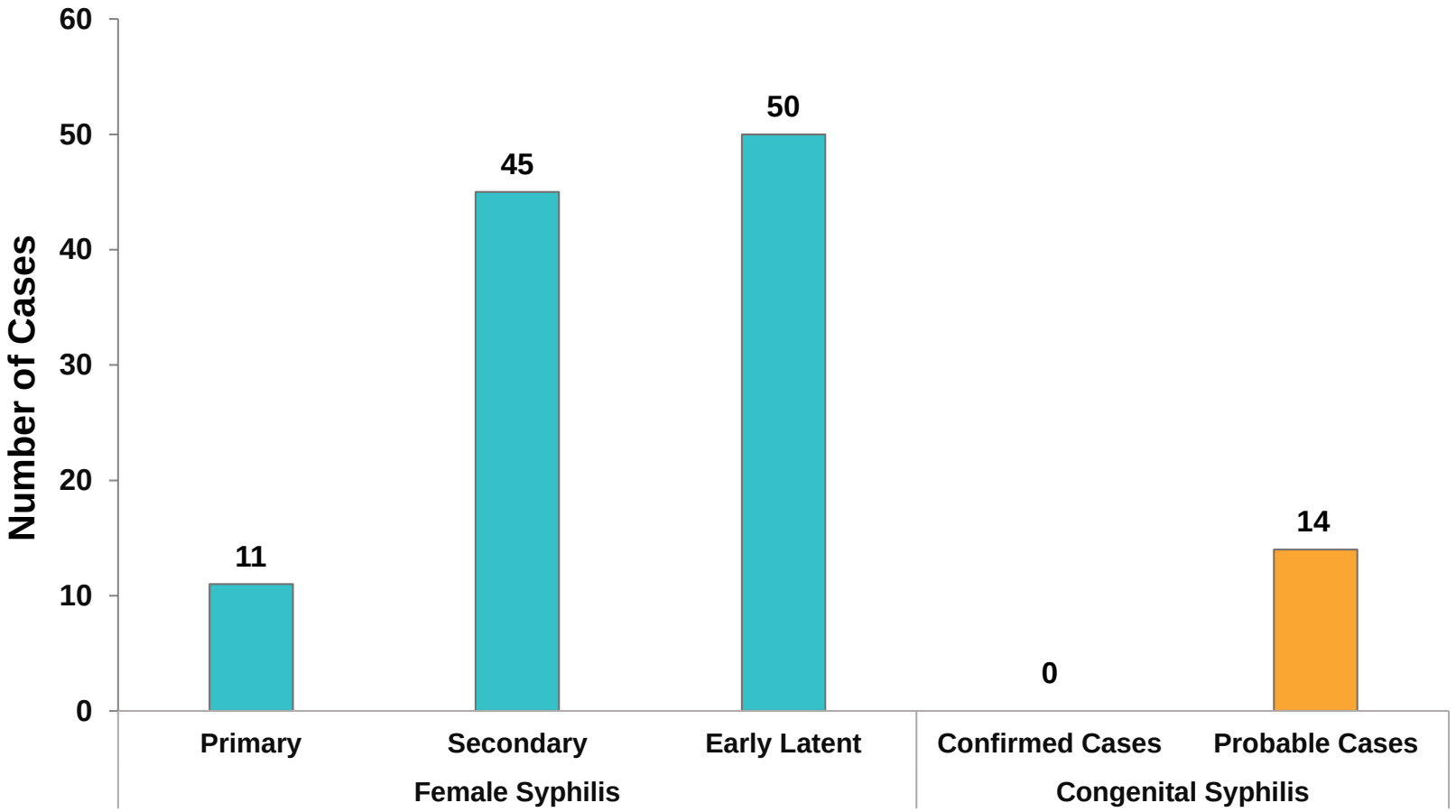
*Inadequate maternal treatment refers to incomplete treatment, treatment that is not in accordance with national guidelines, and/or treatment that was not initiated at least 30 days prior to delivery.

Key Points

Female & Congenital Syphilis in San Diego County

- Cases and rates of syphilis of any stage and early (i.e., primary, secondary, and early latent) syphilis in females aged 15-49 years (i.e. women of childbearing potential) have been increasing overall from 2016-2020.
  - Cases of total syphilis (all stages) increased by 1.4% from 284 cases in 2019 to 288 cases in 2020, and the rate increased by 5.5% from 36.2 cases per 100,000 in 2019 to 38.2 cases per 100,000 in 2020. At the time of diagnosis, 23.3% of syphilis cases were pregnant.
  - Cases of early syphilis increased by 24.7% from 85 cases in 2019 to 106 cases in 2020. The rate of early syphilis in women of childbearing age in 2020 was 1.3 times higher than it was in 2019. Among pregnant women, the early syphilis rate was 3 times higher in 2020 compared to 2019.
- After a steady increase from 2016 through 2019, the congenital syphilis rate decreased by 30.4% in 2020, though none of the changes in rates were statistically significant.
- There were no syphilitic stillbirths reported in 2020.

Cases of Syphilis in Women of Childbearing Age (15–49 y/o) and Congenital Syphilis San Diego County, 2020



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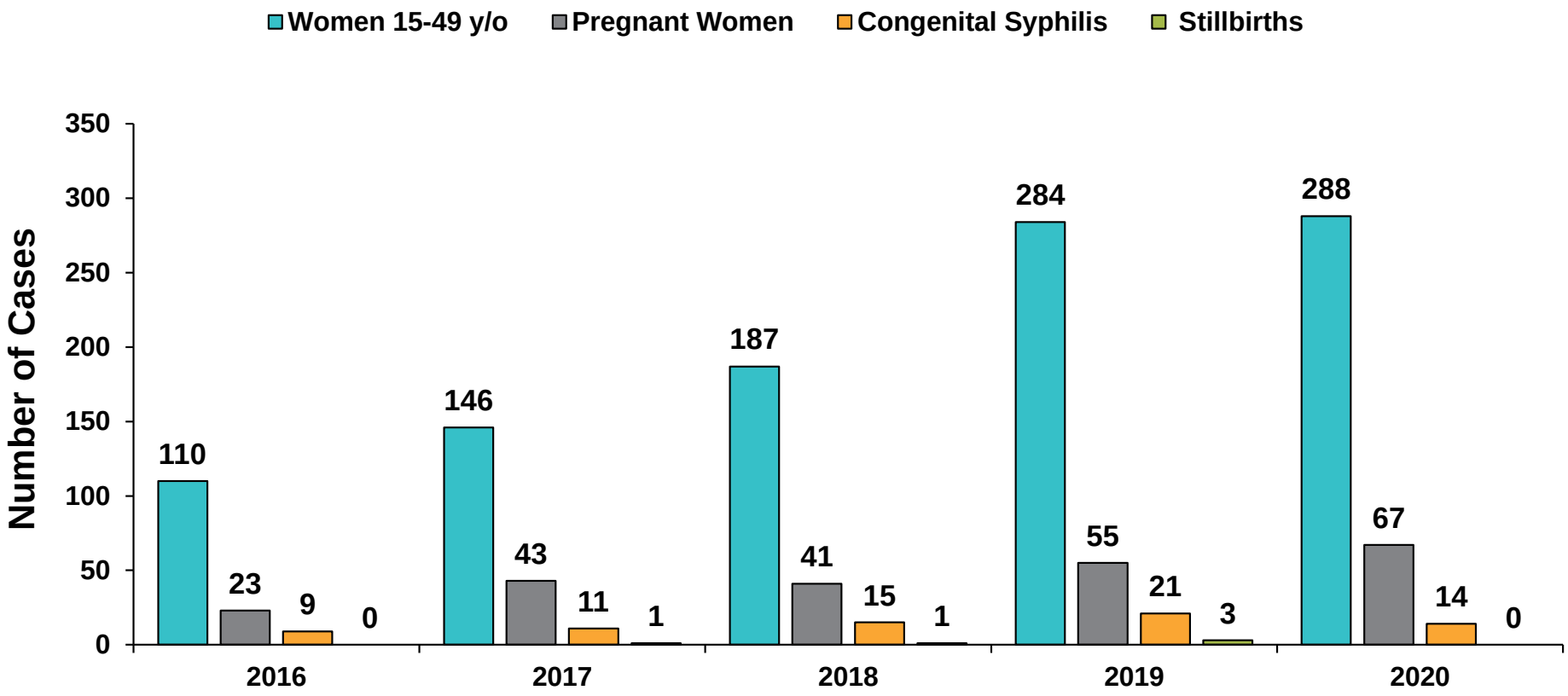
Cases – Early Syphilis in Women of Childbearing Age (15-49 y/o) & Pregnant Women, Congenital Syphilis, & Stillbirths San Diego County, 2016 – 2020



Note: Syphilis includes all stages of syphilis.
Syphilitic stillbirths are included in the congenital syphilis case counts.

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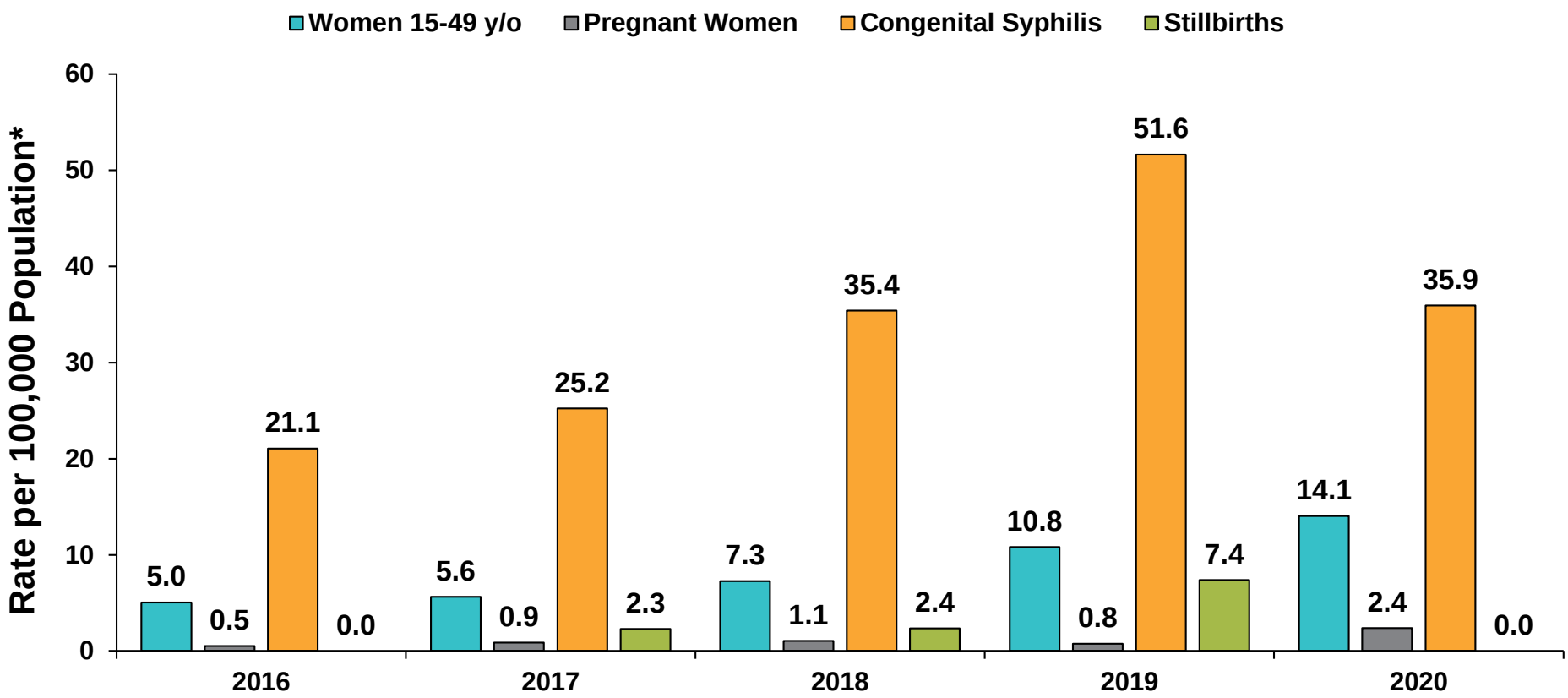
Rates – Early Syphilis in Women of Childbearing Age (15-49 y/o) & Pregnant Women, Congenital Syphilis, & Stillbirths
San Diego County, 2016 - 2020



Note: Early syphilis includes primary, secondary, and early latent stages of syphilis.
*Rates for women 15-49 y/o and pregnant women were defined based on population estimates of women 15-49 years of age.
Rates for congenital syphilis and stillbirths were defined based on the number of live births.

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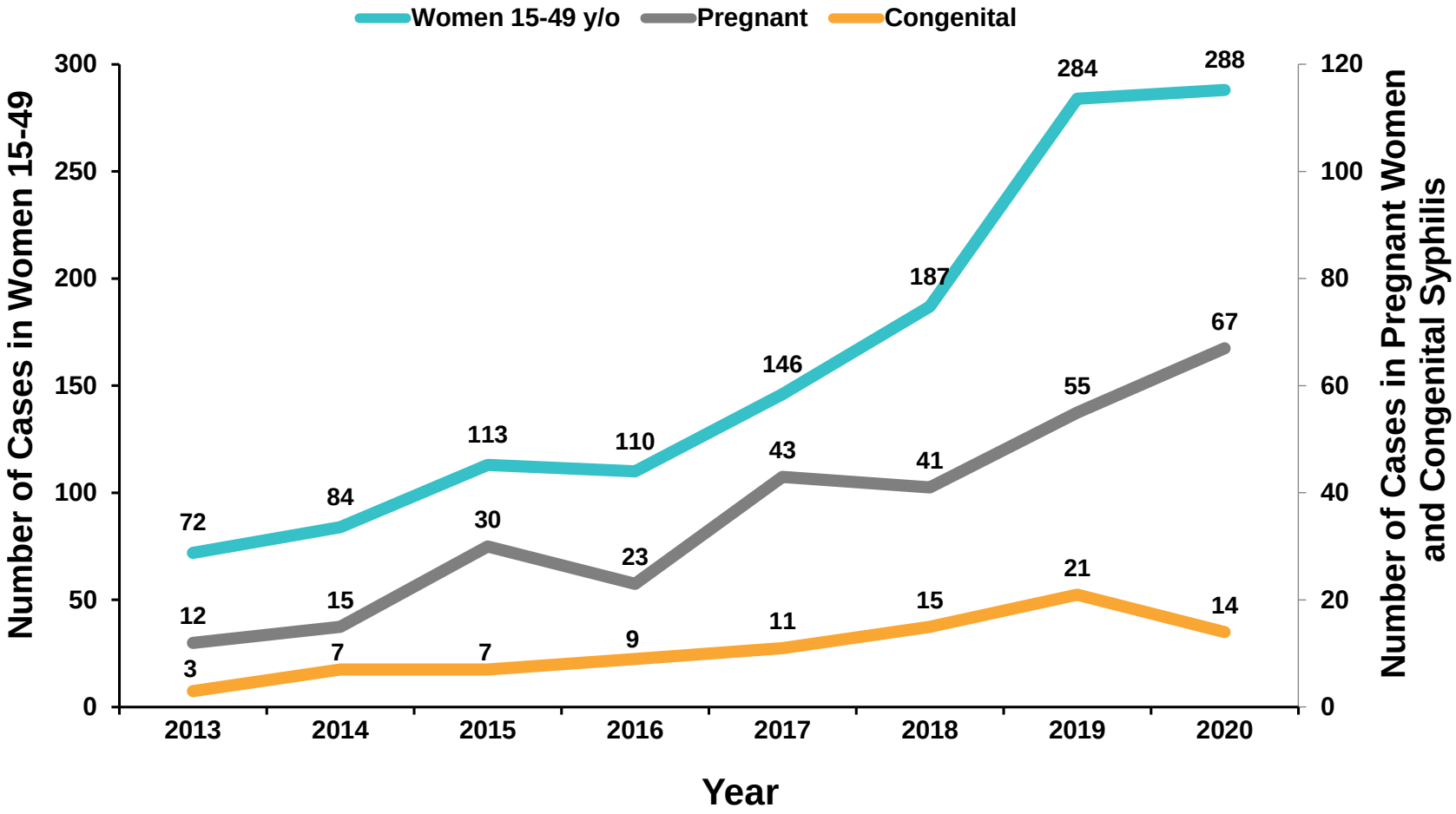
Cases - Syphilis (All Stages) in Women of Childbearing Age (15-49 y/o) & Pregnant Women, Congenital Syphilis
San Diego County, 2013- 2020



Note: Scale for syphilis cases in pregnant women and congenital syphilis cases is on the right side.

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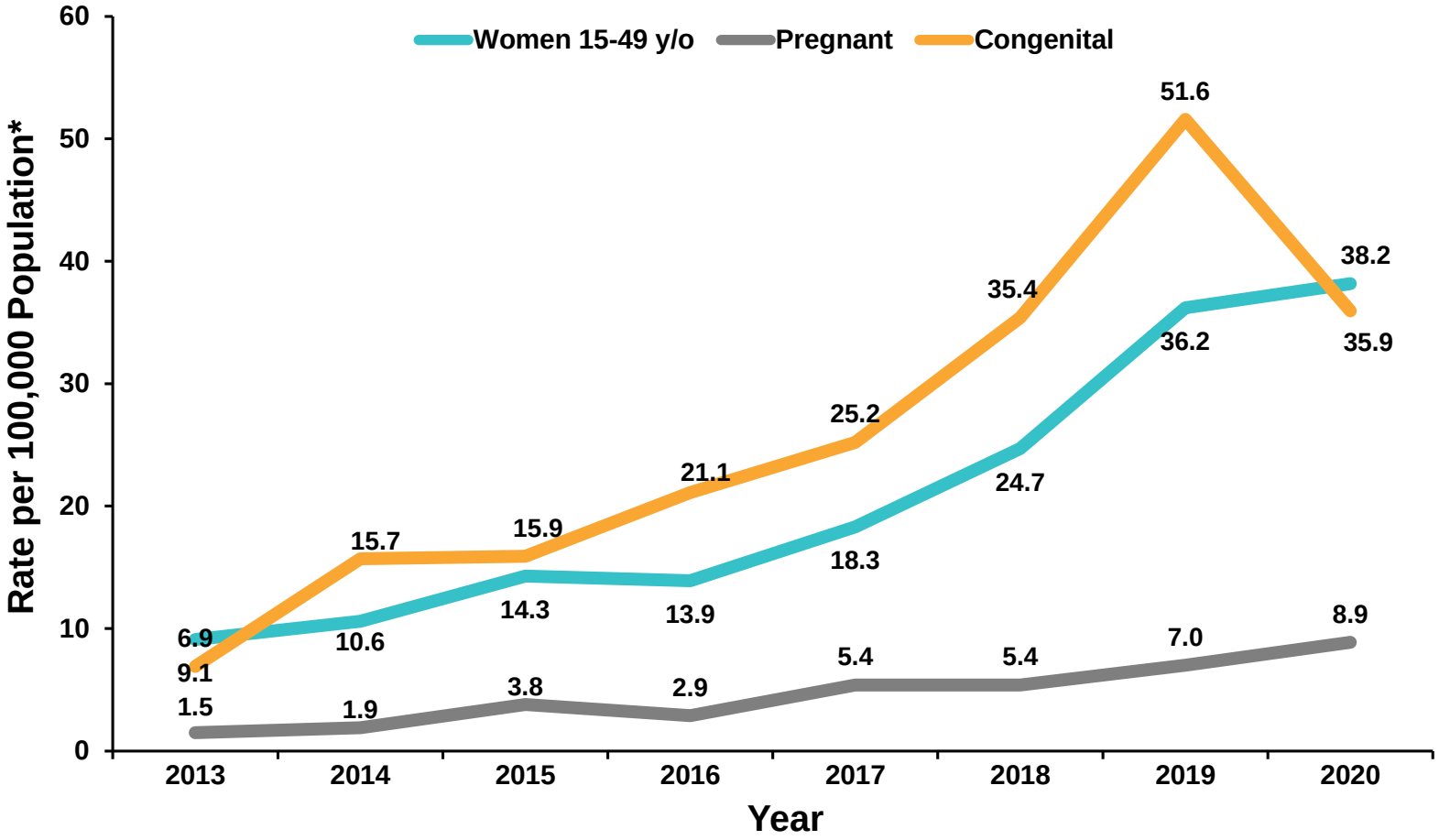
Rates - Syphilis (All Stages) in Women of Childbearing Age (15-49 y/o) & Pregnant Women, Congenital Syphilis
San Diego County, 2013- 2020



*Rates for women 15-49 y/o and pregnant women were defined based on population estimates of women 15-49 years of age.
Rates for congenital syphilis were defined based on the number of live births.

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Contact Information

For questions or requests for data that are not included in these slides, please send an e-mail to std@sdcounty.ca.gov, or visit www.STDSanDiego.org (click on “Reports and Statistics”).

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